Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 56 | MONDAY MARCH 8, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

POLL RESULTS

Should the CNMI set up its own islandwide tsunami warning system?

Yes	113
No	34
Undecided	3

Sunday, March 07, 2010

INSIDE

Renewable Energy Meet

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial last week led a CNMI delegation to the Pacific Territorial Governor's workshop on renewable energy solutions at NREL.

Local...Page 8

Bus Accident Hero

A bilingual 4th grader hurt in an Arizona bus accident that killed six people and injured more than a dozen others translated from an ambulance stretcher.

Across the nation...Page 15

Unpredictable Oscars

Too predictable. That's the persistent complaint about the Academy Awards.

Life & Style...Page 20

Ogumoro orders random drug testing on all DPS personnel. PAGE 2

Mt. Carmel tops congressional mock trial. PAGE 5

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, recently met in Washington, D.C. with Office of Intergovernmental Affairs' Richard Swigart, left, and Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Juliette Kayyem, right, to address emerging issues on the implementation of U.S. immigration in the CNMI.

DHS: Indefinite access to Chinese, Russian tourists

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Fitial asks feds to improve immigration processing at airport, border control

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has assured the CNMI of indefinite access to Chinese and Russian tourists "as long as there are no major security incidents involving these visitors," Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said, following a meeting with DHS Assistant Secretary Juliette Kayyem in Washington, D.C. last week.

See DHS on Page 4

THE CHAMPIONS

See story on Page 4

Rota High School cadets and their instructors, along with Board of Education member Tanya King, right-standing, show their trophies after being named the overall winners in the Annual Inter-island Drill Competition at the Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico in Puerto Rico on Saturday morning. Left shows Kagman High School cadets perform one of their incredible drills.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Alien workers groups happy Labor lost authority to revoke umbrella

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alien workers groups are happy with Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown's statement that the Department of Labor lost authority to revoke umbrella permits issued to alien workers and those with immediate relative status.

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed in an interview

See ALIEN on Page 4

Syed

Tinian, Saipan ferry to stop service for up to six months

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Shipping and Transportation Inc.'s ferry service between Saipan and Tinian will be temporarily suspended for five to six months starting on March 16, 2010 for repairs to comply with the American Bureau of Shipping's regulations. Residents

See FERRY on Page 4

UNLIMITED
3 WAYS TO GO UNLIMITED WITH ICONNECT
TALK TO THE LARGEST PUSH-TO-TALK NETWORK IN THE REGION!
FREE!
iCONNECT
888.8888
See ad and stores for details.

Local

Ogumoro orders random drug testing on all DPS personnel

DPS deputy commissioner also implements cost-cutting measures, strengthens unit to fight illegal drugs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Deputy Commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro has ordered random drug testing on all DPS personnel and implemented cost-cutting measures.

Ogumoro

In compliance with Ogumoro's memorandum on random drug testing, police officers and fire fighters were often seen at the Diagnostic Laboratory Services Inc. in Gualo Rai where the testing is being done.

"As of present time, 75 percent of all DPS personnel have complied with this order," according to DPS acting spokesman Jason Tarkong yesterday.

Tarkong said of the numerous issues, one of Ogumoro's biggest campaigns is the fight against illicit drugs and narcotics.

"With this in mind, the deputy commissioner has also beefed up the Criminal Investigation Bureau's Narcotics Unit-Drug Enforcement Task Force by placing additional manpower into the unit," Tarkong said.

On cost-cutting measures, Ogumoro mandated all DPS personnel, including investigators, to park all government vehicles at DPS at the end of their work day.

The acting spokesman said this rule of course does not apply to the on-call criminal or arson investigators who are expected to respond at anytime to high profile cases.

"Mileage log sheets have also been implemented, where DPS personnel would log in the beginning and ending mileage of their vehicles during a whole work day," Tarkong said.

The mileage, he added, is then calculated at the end of the week and is monitored and scrutinized by Ogumoro's office.

He said government vehicle and office inspections have also been conducted to ensure that DPS maintains a healthy and clean standard while interacting with the public.

"Additional cost-saving measures include turning off all unused air conditioners, lights, and electrical equipment after office hours," Tarkong said.

To counter reckless driving on the island, Ogumoro intensified the Aggressive Driving Interdiction Program (ADIP).

Under ADIP, uniformed officers will be saturating or conduct high visibility along the main roads of the island to deter, detect, and apprehend reckless drivers.

"ADIP is a form of high visibility enforcement, which basically heightens public awareness of law enforcement presence, in hopes of minimizing reckless driving, traffic accidents, and other problematic traffic related issues," Tarkong said.

As the CNMI's range master, Ogumoro also recently traveled to Rota where he certified the island's enforcement personnel from Police, Customs, and Fish and Wildlife on 9mm pistol, 12-gauge shotgun, and M16 assault rifle.

Tarkong said firearms instructor David Anthony Hosono assisted the deputy commissioner on the certification.

"With the positive impact the deputy commissioner has brought to the Department, high morale among personnel has also become apparent and joint operations between DPS, CNMI Customs Services and the Commonwealth Ports Authority are also being established," Tarkong said.

3 tons of unexploded World War II ordnance detonated

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A large cloud of smoke billows over the Laderan Laggun Cliff walls in Marpi, followed by a thunderclap which awed spectators at the Suicide Cliff during the detonation of unexploded World War II ordnance on Saturday afternoon.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some three tons of unexploded World War II ordnance with 800 lbs. of net explosive weight were detonated on Saturday afternoon, as part of a federal funded project to clean up and dispose of hazardous materials from Marpi starting last year.

Two experts from the Guam-based U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment Marianas led the detonation.

John Scott, president of Ampro, which has been contracted by the Department of Public Lands for the removal of unexploded ordnance from Marpi, said most of the ordnance detonated were mortars, projectiles, and hand grenades.

Ampro retrieved over 12,000 pieces of unexploded war ordnance from a Marpi project site measuring 624,000 square meters. DPL received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the cleanup project.

The U.S. military used the Marpi area immediately after the capture of Saipan during World War II, to store thousands of tons of ordnance for the impending invasion of the Japanese mainland.

"There may be one more detonation to dispose of the remaining ordnance we removed from the project area, and that may be in the latter part of April," Scott told *Saipan Tribune* right after the detonation.

As standard procedure, a small volume of explosives was detonated for the "bird shot" to scare away birds and other animals near the detonation site, to prevent them from being harmed.

The detonation site is about a mile north of the Marpi landfill.

At 1:01pm on Saturday, DPL project manager Franz Reksid pushed the Navy EOD's remote button to detonate the ordnance.

First came the huge cloud of smoke rising up from the Laderan Laggun Cliff's walls, followed by a thunderclap.

The sight and sound of the detonation awed the crowd of children and adults that gathered at Suicide Cliff.

Among the spectators was Bud Sova, who is visiting Saipan from Wisconsin along with his sister-in-law and her husband.

"It's neat. That's a big boom," said Sova, as he marvels at the Marpi scenery from Suicide Cliff.

He said he and his companions were down at the Last Command Post when police officers started clearing the roads going to and from Suicide Cliff for the detonation.

"We were told there's going to be a detonation so we thought we'd watch it. My first time to see anything like this. We just happened to be at the right place at the right time," he said.

Capt. Pete Leon Guerrero, commander of the CNMI Explosive Response Team or XRT, said the detonation once again saw the cooperative efforts of the Navy's EOD from Guam, XRT, the Department of Public Safety, the Emergency Management Office, and Ampro.

DPS closed off the Marpi area from 11am to 2pm on Saturday for the safety of residents and tourists while the detonation was ongoing.

The only area that was open was Suicide Cliff, which was the main viewing point for the detonation. Public access to Suicide Cliff was allowed only through the road leading up to the Far East Broadcasting antenna for viewing purposes.

BlackBerry Bold
Introducing the newest
BlackBerry® Bold™ 9700 Smartphone.
• New Design, Smaller Footprint
• New Trackpad Navigation
• New Mute Button
• New Phone Lock Button
• Email and Internet Browser
• BlackBerry App World™
• 3.2 MP Camera
$379*
Join Today
club red
BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType®, SurePress™ and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world.
*New activation on 24 month agreement and BlackBerry® data required.
NTT docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC
483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

10 arrested in DPS mass apprehension operation

MMA fighters Fitial, Charley among those arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety conducted a mass apprehension operation on Saipan that resulted in the arrest of known mixed martial arts fighter Kelvin Fitial and nine other persons for alleged various offenses.

DPS acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that the Superior Court issued on Friday several arrest warrants based on investigative findings by the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives.

Tarkong said after the issuance of the warrants, DPS conducted the mass apprehension operation.

"The charges listed on the warrants varied from disturbing the peace, assault and battery, riot, sexual abuse of minor in the first and second degree, assault with a dangerous weapon, forgery, theft, contempt of court, and resisting arrest," Tarkong said.

Fitial, 26, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. He allegedly assaulted a male Caucasian. A $5,000 cash bail was imposed for his temporary liberty.

Another MMA fighter, Maitai Charley, 25, was arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief. A $3,000 cash bail was imposed for his temporary release.

The eight other arrested persons were Lamberto Flores, Dante Parinas, Roberto Lozano, Numido Florendo, Steven R. Aguon, Lilian T. Duenas, Marvin Ringlen, and Joseph Jones Villagomez.

Flores, Parinas, Lozano, and Florendo were arrested for disturbing the peace, assault and battery, and riot.

Aguon was apprehended for sexual abuse of a minor in the first and second degree.

Duenas was arrested for forgery and theft. Detectives also allegedly discovered 42 marijuana plants ranging from 4 inches to 7 feet tall in her property in Papago when they served the arrest warrant to her.

Tarkong said additional charges will be included against Duenas.

Ringlen was arrested for contempt of court.

Villagomez was arrested for disturbing the peace, assault and battery, criminal mischief, and resisting arrest.

While trying to serve the warrant to Villagomez, detectives found 13 marijuana plants on his property in Dandan.

Tarkong said additional charges will be filed against Villagomez.

Tarkong said DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro hopes that the mass apprehension operation is a sign that the department will continue to better its means of addressing the public's concerns for fighting crimes.

"The deputy commissioner would like to ensure the general public that with the recent arrests and charges filed against its own personnel, he will continue to enforce a zero-tolerance policy for anyone, to include Police and Fire personnel who break the law," Tarkong said.

Fenny Hair Cut Beauty Parlor
Specials: Eyelash Extension-$10.00
Wart Removal-50¢ each
For Rebonding or Perming Services
Free Hot Oil Treatment
Tel.: 235-0393 • Open Daily: 10:00am - 10:00pm
Located in Chalan Piao Road beside Holiday Club

KEVIN'S VIDEO II
special

Rent (5) five DVD's
Get (2) two DVD's free rental
GOOD UNTIL OFFER LAST.

STOP DIABETES FOOT AND JOINT PAIN
IMPROVED SENSATION, BALANCE & CIRCULATION

PACIFIC HOME HEALTH CARE
670-234-CARE
Call us today for a free Anodyne Therapy consultation, home safety evaluation and fall risk assessment.

DOI grants $862M for Fish and Wildlife Conservation Projects

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced last week that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will distribute more than $862 million to all 50 states, U.S. commonwealths and territories, and the District of Columbia to support hunting, sport-fishing, and fish and wildlife conservation and education programs.

The funding, through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, is derived from excise taxes and import duties on sporting firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, sport-fishing equipment, electric outboard motors, and fuel taxes attributable to motorboats and small engines.

"Americans have few higher callings than to conserve our treasured landscapes and bountiful wildlife and connect our children and grandchildren to the great outdoors," Salazar said. "For more than half a century, boaters, hunters, anglers, and recreational shooters, and the hunting and fishing industries have supported some of our nation's most successful programs to conserve fish and wildlife and its habitat and make it possible for Americans to enjoy them.

"Thanks to sportsmen and other outdoor enthusiasts, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program has created countless opportunities for conservation and recreation and improved the lives of all Americans who treasure fish and wildlife," he said.

The Wildlife Restoration apportionment for 2010 totals nearly $473 million, with more than $86 million going to hunter education and firearm and archery range programs. The Sport Fish Restoration apportionment for 2010 totals more than $389 million. The federal government pays up to 75 percent of the cost of each eligible project in the 50 states and up to 100 percent in the commonwealths and territories.

"The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs are highly effective federal conservation programs. In addition to providing a stable financial source, the funding is protected by legislative safeguards preventing its diversion away from state fish and wildlife agencies," said Rowan Gould, acting director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "For states working to ensure a future for fish and wildlife, conservation education for our children, and opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors, few programs offer this level of support and reliability." ***(PR)***

H&R BLOCK®
Tax Services
Ground Flr. Saipan Gold Beach Hotel
Beach Road, South Garapan
PO Box 503630 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-4728 • Fax: (670) 235-6726
Tax Season Business Hours
(February 15- April 15, 2010)
8:00am to 8:00pm Monday through Friday
10:00am to 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday
Tijuana Mexican Restaurant | Gold Beach Hotel | H&R BLOCK | Joe's Bar & Grill VFW
To Duty Free Shop ← Beach Road, South Garapan → To San Jose

I just got a great pair of glasses for just $77.00! at Marianas Eye Institute

Just $77.00 for a complete pair of glasses:
- Lens & Frames included
- One-year warranty
- Selected Brands
- Lightweight lenses
- $127.00 for Progressive "no-line" bifocals
Most Insurance Accepted
Walk-ins welcome
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com
Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Lent Special at The Palms

Minami Restaurant has unveiled Seafood Specials Every Friday during Lent as well as those who simply love Seafood. In addition to an array of Seafood delicacies, don't forget to try our "Fish Oil Special".
Every Friday
Minami Restaurant
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
$38.00 adult & $19.00 child
San Roque Club welcome
20% Local Discount Applicable
The Palms on PauPau Beach
For more information or reservation, please call 322-3311.

FERRY

From Page 1

and tourists thus have to rely solely on air transportation to travel to and from Tinian.

This was confirmed by Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino general manager Tom Liu with *Saipan Tribune* during the weekend.

"Yes, the ferry services will be temporarily suspended from March 16, 2010 for about five to six months until all repairs are done during dry-docking. It is the owner's hope that the ferry service will be back to normal as soon as possible," Liu said in an e-mail response to media inquiry.

Liu said during the repair of the vessel, "travelers will need to rely on air transfer by Star Marianas Air on charter basis and Freedom Air on per ticket basis."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

In this file photo, a man walks in front of Tinian Shipping and Transportation Inc.'s ferry docked at the Port of Saipan in Lower Base. Starting March 16, ferry services between Saipan and Tinian will be temporarily suspended for needed ferry repairs.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) said yesterday that while the temporary suspension of the ferry services for repairs is the prerogative of Tinian Dynasty, it will certainly cause an inconvenience to those using the regular ferry services.

"I'm sad to hear of the suspension of ferry service. But it is Dynasty's call. Dynasty has been helpful to Tinian's economy and we'd do what we can to help them," Cruz said.

Cruz, however, said "it is only fair" that the public is given advance notice, given that Tinian Shipping is the only ferry service provider between Tinian and Saipan.

Taking the ferry is much cheaper than riding a plane between Saipan and Tinian.

Rep. Trenton B. Conner (R-Tinian) also said that a temporary suspension of ferry service between Tinian and Saipan is a major concern for the casino and tourism industry, as well as for residents who find it more convenient to travel by ferry than plane.

Federalization

Liu said Tinian Dynasty decided to delay dry-docking the ferry last year due to concerns about the CNMI's ability to continue to access Chinese and Russian tourists when the federal government took over local immigration effective Nov. 28, 2009.

Chinese tourists are the main market of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, the only casino operator in the CNMI.

Liu said when it looked like Chinese and Russian tourists would not be able to continue to visit the CNMI without a U.S. visa and that Tinian Dynasty would loose the entire China market, they decided to delay dry-docking the ferry pending a decision on the visa waiver program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

He said the ferry operation is "very costly to maintain."

"Without the China market, revenue from ferry operation would be affected tremendously since the China market made up the bulk of the passengers. Finally, DHS made the announcement in mid-October that Chinese and Russian tourists may continue to visit CNMI under parole. The owner had every reason to continue the ferry service. Thus, Tinian Shipping started to plan for dry-docking the ferry in order to comply with American Bureau of Shipping's regulations," Liu said.

In October last year, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano used her "parole" power to allow Chinese and Russian visitors to enter the CNMI and stay here for up to 45 days without a U.S. visa even after Nov. 28, 2009.

Liu said "Tinian Shipping and Transportation do apologize to the public for any inconveniences caused by the interruption of ferry services."

A public notice about the temporary suspension of ferry service is expected to be posted soon at the Saipan and Tinian seaports.

ALIEN

From Page 1

with *Saipan Tribune* said he observed that everybody who attended the Office of Federal Ombudsman's forum at the American Memorial Park's amphitheater on Thursday was very happy.

"They kept on clapping when they learned that they have legal status to work in the CNMI until Nov. 27, 2011 and that they can work multiple jobs without any kind of restrictions," Syed said.

Brown stated that employment of aliens is now a matter of federal law. She said any alien who holds an umbrella permit recognized under federal law, P.L. 110-229, is authorized to work until its expiration date, which for all umbrella permits is Nov. 27, 2011.

At the forum attended by over a thousand alien workers, IRs, and their children, most of the questions raised to Brown were about the umbrella permit—whether it can be revoked and how long it's good for.

"People are very confused about the two dates," Brown said.

Brown clarified that holders of umbrella permits authorizing employment may work until Nov. 27, 2000, even though the permit may contain two dates.

Syed said they have been waiting for a long time that this kind of statement should be out from federal agencies like the Office of Federal Ombudsman.

"There's a lot of confusions even in the job market, people, employers are confused where they are going," he said.

Due to confusion, the UWM president said, many employees received non-renewal notices from their employers.

With respect to employers, Brown said they do not need to seek Labor's approval to hire an alien with an umbrella permit for new employment in the CNMI.

With Brown's statements, Syed said there will be no more confusion because workers and employers are now aware that Labor does not have the authority on alien workers anymore.

He said alien workers don't need to go to Labor for any kind of processing or any job-related matter.

"Now they can freely work until their umbrella permits expire Nov. 27, 2011. And they have the flexibility to work anywhere they want as many as they can," he added.

UHM board chairman Ronnie Doca said Brown's statements are a good development for the workers particularly when she pointed out that there is no need for alien workers to go back to Labor again for processing because the federal government has recognized their legal stay in the CNMI.

"Workers can now have multiple jobs as long as they are capable and there are employers willing to hire them," said Doca, who is also board chairman of Pilipino Contract Workers Association Inc.

DHS

From Page 1

Fitial, who is expected to be back today on Saipan from Washington, D.C. where he attended the National Governors Association, among other things, also made a handful of requests to DHS.

One of the requests is for federal immigration officers receiving tourists at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport "to take steps to shorten lines and reduce waiting time for immigration processing."

Since the federalization of local immigration on Nov. 28, 2009, DHS' Customs and Border Protection took over immigration processing at international airports in the CNMI.

Fitial said the long lines at the airport are "inconveniencing tourists of all nationalities."

The governor said Kayyem assured him that DHS would look into creating separate lines for visa waiver countries and parole countries, so as to speed up service.

Parole

In October 2009, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano used her "parole" powers to grant the CNMI's request to be allowed to continue receiving Chinese and Russian visitors at least until DHS issues a final rule on the joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

Under this parole program, Russian and Chinese tourists will still be allowed to enter the CNMI without a U.S. visa for up to 45 days.

"Everyone in the CNMI is very appreciative of the creative solution in allowing us to continue to bring in tourists from China and Russia after federalization. I am now asking for assurance that this arrangement will be made permanent so that we can plan for our future," Fitial said he told Kayyem in a meeting he had requested.

The governor said since the start of the new parole system for Chinese and Russian tourists, "all aspects of the special program for these tourists have been running smoothly, with no overstay incidents."

Fital said Kayyem assured him that "there are no intentions to revoke the program based on the good record to date" and that DHS "will extend it."

In his meeting with Kayyem, Fitial was joined by CNMI Commerce Secretary Michael Ada and former Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Lynn Knight, who has assisted the governor as his communications liaison in the nation's capitol for the past year.

Work internships

Besides asking DHS to improve immigration processing at the Saipan international airport, Fitial also asked for the implementation of a planned program for former CNMI Division of Immigration officials to enter working internships with DHS.

Fitial told Kayyem that some 21 former immigration employees had been transferred to other law enforcement positions through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, but that 20 are still unemployed. Fitial said Kayam told him she would look into this.

The CNMI House and Senate recently passed a bill by Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), allowing for the lateral transfer of former immigration personnel to other government agencies.

Exit, entry data

In another request, the governor reiterated the need to register entry and exit information involving all foreigners.

Fitial said since the federalization of local immigration, exits are no longer being tracked, as U.S. Customs and Border Control says they do not have the capability of electronically collecting exit information.

"The CNMI government worked very hard in recent years to implement an effective Border Management System that enabled us to keep track of all foreigners entering the CNMI as visitors, workers, students, investors, and other classifications. We want to continue using the CNMI's Border Management System so that we can prevent the increase in the number of 'overstayers' in our community, whose continued, but illegal residence in the Commonwealth adversely affects our economy and use of government services," Fitial said in a statement.

The governor also asked DHS to put in place certain protocols and/or regulations with regard to the exits of foreign students and investors once their CNMI permits are revoked.

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada said foreign students and investors who lose their status would have 90 days to exit.

"We have talked with DHS officials about who will enforce this, but have been told that there are no regulations in place," he said.

Fitial, for his part, said there is a need for a memorandum of understanding in the interim while the regulations are being written and finalized that will authorize the CNMI to do what it has been doing previously in enforcing exits.

"I would like to have my Special Legal Counsel Howard Willens or our CNMI Attorney General work with DHS on the details of such an agreement," the governor added.

Fitial complimented DHS officials for their responsiveness to the CNMI's issues and noted the good communications and working relationships with federal officials that have been built over the past months.

"In my meetings at the White House and the National Governor's Association, I told everyone that if not for the favorable decision by the Secretary of DHS Janet Napolitano to allow us to continue to receive Chinese and Russian tourists, our economy would be under water by now. While there are still some issues to be resolved, we appreciate the creative solutions and attention that DHS is giving us at the highest levels," he added.

DHS has yet to issue the final regulations on the CNMI transitional worker program and the investor program, causing worry among employers, nonresident workers, foreign students and investors.

Mt. Carmel tops congressional mock trial

Advances to national tilt in DC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mount Carmel School successfully defended its championship in the Public School System congressional mock trial competition, which was held last Saturday at Marianas High School.

The 18-member team from the Commonwealth's lone Catholic learning institution defeated Saipan Southern High School in the rigorous final rounds and thus will represent the Commonwealth in the national contest to be held in Washington, D.C. late next month.

The "We the People" program featured an intensive curriculum that provided students with comprehensive instruction on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the principles and values they embody. The program is designed to promote an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in the constitutional democracy.

During Saturday's event, students from the competing schools demonstrated their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution before simulated congressional committees made up of constitutional scholars, lawyers, journalists, and public officials.

According to PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, CNMI-PSS has been hosting the competition for three years now. Marianas High School topped the maiden mock trial competition in 2008.

About 60 high school students from Saipan Southern and Mt. Carmel took part in the competition this year.

Thornburgh described the overall score of both teams as "relatively close" and Mt. Carmel won four out of the six units in the competition.

According to Maria Balajadia, a member of the winning group, it took the team about four months to prepare for the competition.

"It feels great…our hard work really did pay off!" she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that they are proud to represent the CNMI anew in the national competition.

But besides winning the title, the junior student said that what was important for the group was the knowledge they gained from the event.

"Even if we didn't win … we still learned a lot about our Constitution and rights and that's the most important thing," she added.

RyAnne Camacho, a junior student and part of the national team for 2010, said she's looking forward to going to Washington, D.C.

"I am happy that I will be part of the team that will represent the CNMI. We will work hard and do our best for the national event," she said.

This year was the first for Balajadia and Camacho to compete in the congressional mock trial.

"We really worked hard in our class just to make sure that we know what we are reading and making sure that everyone understands the subject," Camacho added.

Aside from Balajadia and Camacho, other members of the Mt. Carmel mock trial team that advanced to the national competition in Washington, D.C. are Nicoli Matala, Brittany Yamagata, Troy Villafuerte, Ivan Matala, Matthew Aquino, Erik Cepeda, Geza Baka III, Ericka Celestino, Min Seong Kim, Savana Manglona, Joseph Yoon, Anthony Sablan, John Elenzano, Calvin Yang, Nic Sablan, and Yi Yean Kim.

The team's coaches included Associate Justice John Manglona, Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Rosiky Camacho, Vince Seman, and John Gonzales.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Mount Carmel School team members and their coaches pose after the regional congressional mock trial competition Saturday at Marianas High School.

2 brothers nabbed for allegedly cultivating 177 marijuana plants

Authorities arrested on Thursday two brothers who allegedly cultivated 177 marijuana plants on their property on Saipan.

Felix T. Castro and Augustine T. Castro were taken to the Superior Court on Friday for possession of marijuana plants and manufacturing of controlled substance.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo found probable cause that the arrest of the Castro brothers was lawful.

Govendo imposed a $3,000 cash bail for each defendant.

The judge also found out that Felix Castro has an outstanding bench warrant for small claims.

Assistant Attorney General George Hasselback called to the witness stand a Customs officer.

The officer said members of the Drug Task Force found and seized 177 marijuana plants in different areas of the houses of Felix and Augustine Castro.

The officer testified that, in 2006 Drug Enforcement Administration agents also seized marijuana plants from the property of Felix Castro.

The officer said that last year, authorities also found marijuana plants on Augustine Castro's property, but the defendant was only given a warning not to do it again. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

2 convenient locations to better serve you!
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Beach Road Clinic
next to Megabyte, Beach Road, Garapan
235-2030
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Kagman Clinic
Kagman III, next to Kagman Postal and Kevin's Video
256-2020
HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
Using advanced technology combined with old-fashioned caring to provide unhurried and understandable exams.
Insurance plans and all major credit cards are gladly accepted

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
322-6537/8 (Voice) 322-6449 (TTY) 322-6536 Fax
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950 website: www.ovrgov.net

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), will be conducting statewide public forums for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services and State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). You must come!

SAIPAN
March 10, 2010
Multi-Purpose Center
5:30-7:30pm

TINIAN
March 16, 2010
Fleming Hotel Lanai
5:30-7:30pm

ROTA
March 23, 2010
Bay View Hotel Lanai
5:30-7:30pm

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Magin Iginoef at least 3 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be obtained and accessed at www.ovrgov.net and at Navy Hill Bldg N2.

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal Funds from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services.

MARCH SPECIALS

Helping build the Marianas for over 25 years

TRAMCOR
TRANSAMERICA (SAIPAN) CORPORATION
Located on Middle Road, Gualo Rai • Tel. No. 234-7833/234-7631

MONTHLY BIG SALE PROMO

15% DISCOUNT

- PLUMBING items: *Bathroom & Kitchen Accessories*
- Metal Track & Metal Studs
- Gypsum Board (Fire rated, Waterguard & Regular)
- Cement Board (1/4", 1/2", 3/8")
- Roofing Tin & Flat Sheet
- Pipes (pvc and cpvc)

20% OFF PVC fittings (hot & cold)

10% OFF Lavatory & Kitchen Faucets

BIG DISCOUNT on all Damaged & Class B items

CHEAPEST DEAL ON ISLAND
Cement $6.40
Purchase of 50 bags and more $6.30

BEST QUALITY US LUMBERS Regular
BEST QUALITY US LUMBERS - Pressure Treated:
• Douglas Fir • Home Center Grade • Incised

Hundreds compete in PFGC regional tilt

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of elementary students from both public and private schools gathered at Kagman Elementary School last Saturday for the regional round of the Public School System's primary forensic league competitions.

Organized by the National Forensic League Board and supported by the CNMI Public School System, students vied for ribbons and medals for dramatic, humorous interpretation, duo, impromptu, choral speaking, and reader's forum categories.

Harold Easton, chairman of the NFL board, said there has been a rising trend in the number of participants every year. He estimated over 250 students competed in various events during the final rounds of the contest.

Five winners were named for each category per grade level where medals were awarded to the Top 3 and ribbons for fourth and fifth placers.

Unlike the National Forensic League, which is also organized by the NFL board, the PGFC has no national event that it can send delegates to. But Easton hinted that the CNMI is looking forward to send teams to national events in the future.

Easton said it is the event's objective to encourage and develop other skills of students besides the academic.

"Little kids need to learn forensic, to stand and speak in front of people, learn how to articulate and boost their confidence. It is also a way to promote appreciation of literature," he said.

Easton said it has been proven that students who involved themselves in public speaking events usually do better in their schools.

"This helps them develop the kids' personal skills and confidence," Easton added.

Saturday's event also drew hundreds of spectators, mostly families giving support to their children. The awards ceremony concluded about 5pm.

During the final round of the humorous interpretation category, 6-year-old Holly Sarah Liban of Calvary Christian Academy wowed judges in her performance which won her a gold medal for the category. She was also named gold medal winner in the dramatic interpretation category in her division.

The first grader told *Saipan Tribune* that she has been enjoying participating the event for three years now.

Her mother, Lorna Liban, expressed her satisfaction on the turnout of the competition and vowed to support and assist her daughter in future events.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
One of the outstanding performances among elementary students in the choral speaking competition during last Saturday's final round of the Primary Grade Forensic League in Kagman Elementary School.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
First grader Holly Sarah Liban performs her piece in the humorous interpretation category.

NMI to sends first delegation to national Mathcourt competition

14 gold medalists named to Las Vegas event

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time the CNMI will send a team to the national Mathcourt competition in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Representing the Commonwealth in the American Regions Mathematics League competition set from June 4 to 5 are gold medalists in the regional Mathcourt competition conducted by the Public School System last Saturday at Saipan Southern High School.

They include three junior high school students and 11 high school students from both private and public schools.

Five Marianas Baptist Academy students were named to the team after bagging gold medals in the regional contest. They include Hanbert Jeong, Manatsu Omori, Hye Young Oh, Won Woo Choi, and Jessica Lee.

Three students from Saipan Southern High School also made the team as Min Jung Song, Soo Jin Choi, and Joe Jang also went home with gold medals last Saturday.

Calvary Christian Academy's Jun Seo Allen Park and Jeremiah Perez will also travel to Las Vegas after striking gold in the competition.

Other gold medal winners and members of the team are Saipan International School's Taek Han Yoon, Grace Christian Academy's Eun Joo Kim, Marianas High School's Jun Yesol, and Northern Marianas Academy's Sung Hoon Ham.

According to PSS Mathcourt competition coordinators Reo Arriola and Dora Miura, the school system will fund the students' trip using federal grants.

Miura said the team is already preparing for the national event by increasing the practice time of the students and focusing their review not only on the mathematics content but also the team dynamics.

Though it is hard to expect anything from the first NMI team, Miura said that she's hoping the team will deliver its best performance.

"It's going to be a great learning experience for all of us…" she said.

During last Saturday's regional Mathcourt contest, 220 students from 13 private and public schools took part in the competition that involved categories in geometry, algebra 1, and algebra 2.

The coordinators disclosed that the first eight students in the national team were selected from the first regional rounds of the local competition while the rest were determined last Saturday.

Besides the gold medalists, Top 5 winners in each contest categories were named and awarded ribbons and medals by PSS.

This school year, PSS conducted four preliminary rounds and two regional events for the Mathcourt competition.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-CHC-077

SUBMISSION: APRIL 09, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"RADIOLOGICAL SERVICES AND TENANCY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **MARCH 26, 2010 AT 10:00 A.M.** AT THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE, LOCATED AT THE DR. JOST T. VILLAGOMEZ BUILDING, LOWER NAVY HILL. ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MR. PETE T. UNTALAN, MHA ACTING DEPTY SECRETARY FOR HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION** BY FAX TO: (670) 234-8930 OR E-MAILED TO health1@pticom.com NO LATER THAN **MARCH 30, 2010 CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DEQ-080

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 1, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM (UPS) AND TWO (2) TRIPP LITE 6-OUTLET LINE CONDITIONERS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, ***LOCAL PREFRENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONCESSION
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting proposals from qualified firms and individuals to operate a food and beverage concession at the Saipan International Terminal, Saipan International Airport. Interested firms and individuals are invited to submit proposals for food and beverage services to be offered to the traveling public.

Proposal packages may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, located at the Administrative Office of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Saipan International Airport during regular business hours. A fee of $50.00 shall be charged for a copy of the proposal package. Checks may be payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All proposals must be received by the Authority at its administrative Office, located at the Saipan International Airport no later than **4:30 on the 19th day of March, 2010** in order to be considered. In evaluating proposals the Authority shall consider the following criteria:

1. Financial standing and capability
2. Management qualifications
3. Capital Investment
4. Proposed Design of Concession Area
5. Food and Beverage to be offered
6. Customer Services, including proposed staffing
7. Pricing of food, beverage, and services offered

The decision on proposals submitted and the award to the successful proposer shall be made within forty-five (45) days of the closing date for receipt of proposals. The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in accordance with Section 3.2 (7) and 4.1 of its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

Inquiries regarding this Request For Proposals may be addressed to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan MP 96950.

Dated This 3rd day of March, 2010.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ Edward M. DeLeon Guerrero
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONCESSION
TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms and/or individuals to operate a food and beverage concession at the Tinian International Airport. Interested firms and/or individuals are encouraged to specify in their proposal the types of products and/or services they intend to offer to the traveling public and how to best use the space available. The area of the space available is 433 square fee, and is centrally located at the Tinian International Airport. This space is available for inspection between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Proposal packages may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, located at the Administrative Office of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Saipan International Airport during regular business hours and the Office of the Tinian Ports Manager located in the Tinian International Airport. A fee of $50.00 shall be charged for a copy of the proposal package. Checks may be payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All proposals must be received by the Authority at its administrative Office, located at the Saipan International Airport no later than **4:30 on the 19th day of March, 2010** in order to be considered. In evaluating proposals the Authority shall consider the following criteria:

1. Financial standing and capability
2. Management qualifications
3. Capital Investment
4. Proposed Design of Concession Area
5. Food and Beverage to be offered
6. Customer Services, including proposed staffing
7. Pricing of food, beverage, and services offered

The decision on proposals submitted and the award to the successful proposer shall be made within forty-five (45) days of the closing date for receipt of proposals. The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in accordance with Section 3.2 (7) and 4.1 of its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

Dated This 3rd day of March, 2010.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ Edward M. DeLeon Guerrero
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES

MESSAGE: Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Boart of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Parole and Revocation Hearing** is scheduled for **March 10, 2010 (Wednesday)** beginning at **9:00 a.m., and , if need be, to continue on March 11, 2010, (Thursday at 9:00 a.m.** at the **Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room**, Susupe, Saipan. The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Adoption of Parole Hearing Minutes – September 16 & 17, 2009

III. Parole Application	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Jeffery P. Cabrera	09-002	06-0212(C)
2. Eugene Repeki	09-010	00-0162(B)
3. Arnel Guiterrez	09-016	07-0154(F)
4. Quincy Oiterong	09-018	07-0116(B)
5. Nickson Hartman	09-021	05-0344/08-0032
6. Ricky Manahane	10-002	09-0054(B)/0138(A)
7. Joseph M. Aldan	10-003	08-006
8. David T. Diaz	10-005	01-381(E)
9. Francisco F. Faisao	10-006	07-0107
IV. Parole Re-Application	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Manuel K. Pangelinan	09-RA-001	88-0266/04-0213(D)
2. Ignacio M. Leon Guerrero	09-RA-002	07-0100/0036
V. Revocation	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Mark Wayne Torres	07-004	00-012(D)
VI. Miscellaneous		
1. Chun Shan XU	BOP No. 09-005	Cr. Cs. No. 02-0104

VII. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3304.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman , Board of Parole

February 22, 2010

8 jailed for plot to kill Fiji's prime minister

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—Eight Fijian men were sentenced Friday to jail terms of three to seven years for their roles in a 2007 plot to assassinate the South Pacific island nation's prime minister.

The men conspired to kill armed forces chief Commodore Frank Bainimarama, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 2006.

"In late 2007 the state of Fiji was in a very fragile state, and had this plot succeeded, the consequences are unthinkable," said Justice Paul Madigan of Fiji's High Court.

"There has been no evidence before this court of any thought given to the fate of the average Fijian should the country be suddenly rid of its president, prime minister and army. The plans of the accused were totally self-serving, thoughtless and greedy."

When the defendants were arrested in late 2007, then-New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark said the plot allegations appeared to be a pretext to round up opponents of Fiji's military government.

The men were convicted Wednesday and had faced up to 14 years in prison.

Bainimarama

The longest sentence of seven years went to Ratu Inoke Takiveikata, a former senator and indigenous Fijian tribal leader, and Sivaniolo Naulago, a former manager of information technology company Pacific Connext.

Former Fiji Intelligence Service director Metuisela Mua was sentenced to three-and-a-half years.

The five other conspirators were all members of the now-disbanded Counter Revolutionary Warfare unit. They received sentences ranging from three to six-and-a-half years.

The men—and eight others who were acquitted earlier in the trial—were initially charged with conspiracy to assassinate Bainimarama, Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum, then-Finance Minister Mahendra Chaudhry and two other senior military officers. The charges relating to all but Bainimarama were later dropped.

The military's chief staff intelligence officer, Maj. Isireli Narawa, testified that the military first heard rumors of an assassination plot in February or March 2007.

Military to conduct training at WA-517, FDM

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area-517 on March 11 from 6:30am to 9:15am and March 13 from 8am to 6:30pm.

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force will also conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on March 9 from 7:45am to 6:30pm and March 10-13 from 7:45am to 10:30pm.

The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 339-3209. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

ZONING BOARD TO HOST VILLAGE MEETINGS

The Zoning Board and Office will hold a round of village meetings to seek comments about how the current zoning law is working, and will update and revise the current zoning law with the goal of addressing the issues and concerns expressed by the community, private sector and the legislature. The public consultation and information campaign over the next two months will continue in order to obtain feedback required to update the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law. Meeting dates and locations which have been confirmed are:

Tuesday, March 9, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**Koblerville Village @ Koblerville Youth Center**
Thursday, March 11, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**San Antonio Village @ Hopwood Junior High School Cafeteria**
Thursday, March 18, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**Chalan Kanoa & Susupe Village @ WSR Elementary School Cafeteria**
Tuesday, March 23, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**Garapan & Gualo Rai Villages @ Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria**
Thursday, March 25, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**San Jose Village @ Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria**
Tuesday, March 30, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**Tanapag Village @ Tanapag Social Hall**

The Board encourages anyone with suggestions that might improve the language of the law, or changes to the zone boundaries to attend. Comments may be submitted orally or in writing at the meeting. Written suggestions may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, April 30, 2010 or they may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

Anyone with questions about the meetings may contact the Zoning Office by phone at 234-9661 or by e-mail at staff @zoning.gov.mp.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chairperson

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC-RFP-10-023

Request for Statement of Qualification for Project Manag ment Services

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting statement of qualification from individuals or firms for project management services. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) has urgent need for various Professional - Project Management Services as related to the utility services. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is the CNMI Government's combined power, water and wastewater utility. This is a request for proposals to meet the deliverables of a recent federal consent order regarding the disposal, handling and prevention activities regarding used oil, Stipulated Order #2. The CUC procurement regulations for Architect/Engineer (AIE) Procurement Regulations Title 50 Chapter 50 of the CNMI Administrative Code Paragraph 50-50-305 to publicly announce all requirements for arch architect-engineer services and negotiate contracts on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications at a fair and reasonable price. After public announcement of requirement for A/E services, statements shall be reviewed by CUC, and after discussion, selection shall be made in order of preference of A/E firms to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. The CUC shall attempt to negotiate a contract with the highest qualified architect-engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to CUC. In the event that a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated, negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations shall be undertaken with the next highest qualified firm.

The intent is for CUC to procure the services of the most qualified Project Management firm interested in performing a variety of Project Management services in accordance with standard practice including but not limited to construction and repair work, bulk fuel oil transfer, storage and handling in accordance with the applicable codes and regulations including American Petroleum Institute (API), Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Statements of Qualifications will be accepted, reviewed, rated, and ranked by a team of CUC individuals, followed by interviews, as necessary, culminating in the CUC identification of the most qualified firm(s) per CUC procurement regulations.

Details of the Solicitation Notice will be emailed to interested parties upon request, until March 15, 2010 by CUC, Procurement & Supply Division at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, 3' Floor, Room No. 4, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-10-02 3, REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **Monday, March 22, 2010** at 10:OO AM, local time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject anyor all proposals and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shallbecome the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Monday, March 18, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net, Mr. Robert Lorenz, Water-Wastewater Engineer at email robert_lorenz@cucgov.net, Venu, PG Engineer at venu@cucgov.net.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT • P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950-1055 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 / Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Saipan International Airport TSA Office/Restroom Renovations
Project No. CPA-SA-001-10

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for renovations of office space and a restroom and other improvements at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport which will be occupied by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

An electronic copy of the proposal package including plans and specifications is available at the office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport on **Monday, March 8, 2010**. The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal in itemized scope of work format (see proposal form in specifications);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for TSA Office/Restroom Renovations, Project Number CPA-SA-001-10"***. The proposal must be submitted no later than **Friday, March 19, 2010, 4:30 p.m.,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at *9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 15, 2010* at the CPA Airport Conference Room. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting will be permitted to submit proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Project is being financed partially by funds from the Transportation Security Administration and CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax. Contractor must also take into consideration anticipated minimum wage increases. CPA will not consider unjustifiable cost escalations due to unforeseen circumstances once contract is executed.

Proposers shall also include performance and payment bonds premium (payment and performance issued by a U.S. treasury listed bonding company or CPA approved surety) which are required for this project. Performance bond shall be extended to cover the one-year warranty period upon project acceptance. Contractors must also adhere to the insurance requirements included in the proposal package.

Contractor will be responsible for acquiring all necessary permits and permitting documents for project.

Proposers shall also submit with proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project.

The contract period for the project will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($1,000.00) shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than March 12, 2010.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: March 4, 2010

Fitial attends renewable energy workshop

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial met with high level leaders in Golden Colorado on March 1 and 2. From left, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Anthony M. Babauta, Guam Gov. Felix Camacho, Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter, Gov. Fitial, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs Wallace "Chip" Gregson, and Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roger Natsuhara.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial last week led a CNMI delegation to the Pacific Territorial Governor's workshop on renewable energy solutions at NREL, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, in Golden Colorado.

NREL, a laboratory of the Department of Energy, is the only federal laboratory dedicated to the research, development, commercialization and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The laboratory focuses on wind, solar, and biomass sources for renewable energy and on energy efficiency solutions.

To set the stage for the workshop, DOI Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta reviewed Federal goals for renewable energy, the urgent need for alternatives to expensive fossil fuel in Insular Areas, and identified the purpose of the workshop, which was to begin a dialogue between decision makers and experts on renewable energy. DoD Assistant Secretary Chip Greggson reviewed the importance of renewable energy to national security, and Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter presented an impressive progress report on his state's forward-looking plan to develop renewable energy to minimize dependence on fossil fuel and lower CO2 emissions. Under Ritter's leadership, Colorado is moving aggressively to develop its estimated 122 gigawatts of wind, solar, and geothermal energy resources.

NREL staff outlined strategies for development of renewable energy in the Pacific Territories. Required are assessments of resource potential for all feasible alternative energy sources, followed by cost-benefit analysis of each, and deployment of cost-effective solutions. Participants visited NREL's experimental wind farm where the laboratory tests wind-turbine designs under extreme conditions. Presentations were given of successful integration of wind and diesel power in remote settings where wind-generated electricity reduced dependence on fossil fuel. Preliminary data was presented indicating for the first time that wind generation of electricity may be feasible at some sites on Guam. James Quick, Special Assistant to Fitial for Renewable Energy, noted however, that while the average wind velocities are capable of generating power at some sites, they are still low and would only produce energy at about 1/3 of their full capability. For example, installation of 10 1.5-megawatt wind turbines at these optimal sites would produce on average only about five megawatts of electricity. The ability of large wind turbines to survive typhoons remains a concern.

Fitial addressed the workshop attendees, speaking of his goal to eliminate the dependence of the CNMI on imported diesel to generate electricity. The governor pointed out that the CNMI is unique among the U.S. Pacific Territories in having significant geothermal resources, which will continue to be the focus of CNMI's drive to solve its energy problems. Unlike wind generators and solar photo-voltaic systems, which produce power intermittently, geothermal power stations provide continuous, reliable power 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and is the only source of renewable energy capable of fully eliminating diesel generation of electricity in the islands.

Other Pacific leaders participating in the workshop included Guam Gov. Felix Camacho, American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono, and University of Guam President Robert Underwood. Also in attendance were Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roger Natsuhara and DoE Senior Advisor Steve Lindenberg . Members of the CNMI delegation included Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Director Tony Muna, First Lady Josie Fitial, Acting President of Northern Marianas College Lorraine Cabrera, and Special Assistant James Quick. In addition to Camacho, Guam was represented by First Lady Joann Camacho, Simon Sanchez, and Shawn Gumataotao. Participating from American Samoa were Reno Vivao and Ted Leiato. ***(PR)***

Joeten-Kiyu releases Bookmobile schedule

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is expanding and bringing its Bookmobile and Homework Center services to children and parents in the community.

The library's is to bring such services directly to students who are struggling with their homework and/or who are having difficulty accessing Joeten-Kiyu in order to have the opportunity to borrow books and related multimedia library materials off site in the villages.

The opportunity to integrate bookmobile and homework assistance services is part of Joeten-Kiyu's 2009 Competitive Grant that it receives and will continue to reapply for.

Joeten-Kiyu rules and procedures will remain and be applicable to our outreach services, including application for library cards by children through their parents and/or guardians, accessing library materials only through library cards, imposition of fines and fees for late, damaged, or lost materials, registration to participate in availing homework assistance after school at each site, etc. For further information please call the main telephone number at 235-READ (7323) or 235-7322.

Scheduled days and hours for the Bookmobile

- Mondays - JKPL is closed
- Tuesdays - 1pm-3pm Tanapag Elem. School
  3pm-4:30 pm GTC Elem. School
- Wednesday - 2pm-4pm Division of Youth Services
- Thursdays - 1pm-3pm Tanapag Elem. School
  3pm-5pm San Roque Elem. School
- Fridays - 1pm-2:30pm Koblerville Elem. School
  5pm-6:30pm Puengin Inetnon-Kagman Community Center
- Saturdays - 12pm-2pm Tanapag Youth Center

Guam's MDM magazine goes online

TUMON, Guam—Guam's lifestyle magazine, MDM, launched its online version March 1. Readers can find the magazine—as it appears in print—at www.mdmguam.com. "However many copies of Marine Drive Magazine we print, it's never enough. And we are always being asked for extra copies for different audiences on and off Guam," said Maureen N. Maratita, publisher, Glimpses Publications.

The March edition of the magazine is the inaugural online issue; however, readers can also view back issues of January and February online by clicking mdmguam on the bottom left hand corner of the home page. Fans of the magazine can also log onto social media networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and watch behind the scenes production of the magazine on YouTube. Beginning 2010, the magazine design was also revamped with a bolder and stylized cover title.

"Our magazine appeals to a more digital, tech-oriented generation so by having the publication on the Internet, we are making it more accessible to a wider audience," Maratita said. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 8, 1999

Governor signs bill on limit to residency

A controversial legislation seeking to limit to three consecutive years the maximum allowable period for nonresidents to work in the Northern Marianas was signed into law by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio despite strong opposition from businessmen. The new measure, designed to curb influx of alien workers and reduce the island economy's dependence on foreign labor, mandates all guest workers to exit the Commonwealth periodically before they will be allowed to seek re-employment, a provision employers described as impractical, costly and a boon to business. Under Public Law 11-69, nonresident employees must leave the islands at the end of a three-year employment and stay outside CNMI for a period of not less than six months.

Doctor urges regular checks for women to avoid breast cancer

An obstetrician-gynecologist has appealed to women in the CNMI to undergo regular health examination to prevent having breast and cervix cancer, two of the most common causes of deaths among women on the island. In a symposium last Saturday sponsored by the First Lady's Vision Foundation, Dr. Helen Taro-Atalig of the Commonwealth Health Center said 49 percent of the women in the CNMI last year were found suffering from cervical cancer. Of the total female population of 22,544 (15 years old and above) ,some 66.2 percent are found to be afflicted of breast cancer here, Atalig added. In the United States, breast cancer is the most common type of cancer disease that afflicts American women, second only to lung cancer.

MARCH 8, 2000

House holds off action on business reform measures

The House of Representatives yesterday agreed to withhold final action on the comprehensive labor and business reform measure to allow other private sector groups to submit proposed amendment to the legislation. But House Bill 12-39, or the Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act of 2000, stirred up discussion anew at yesterday's session as opponents of the measure sought the changes before voting on second and final reading. "I don't want this bill to be railroaded by the House," said Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, author of the measure. "I want as much deliberation." The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the CNMI Contractors Association have both asked the lower chamber to defer action so that they can make recommendations.

Bill to reform local labor laws underway

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial is expected to introduce today legislation patterned after the Federal Labor Standards Act to reform existing local labor laws as part of his leadership's goal to revitalize the economy. The forthcoming bill, one of the measures set out by the House late January, will compliment the Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act now under consideration in the lower chamber. Mr. Fitial said his proposal will resolve questions on the House's bid to repeal the fair wage act that requires companies to provide to local workers the same benefits granted to nonresident workers.

March 8, 2001

CNMI told 'Learn from Guam'

The Northern Marianas should take advantage of its strategic location for trade and commerce operations, not to mention strong military presence to generate millions of revenues. Aside from lucrative business on air service and shipment, CNMI can also tap its tourism industry, marine resources and its significant location in the Pacific for increased military presence to aid its economy, former Guam Chamber of Commerce president Gerald Perez said yesterday. Speaking before the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Perez recommended collaborative efforts with Commonwealth businessmen to improve the economic condition of the Northern Marianas and Guam.

Increased lobby efforts to repeal 3-year limit urged

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday urged its members to enforce major lobbying strategy at the Legislature to show support for the elimination of the three-year limit stay for nonresident workers. Calling all members to unite and beef up lobbying efforts, Chamber President Anthony Pellegrino stressed the importance of services provided by thousands of guest workers in the CNMI business community. During yesterday's chamber meeting, Mr. Pellegrino noted the quality of work needed from nonresident workers who occupy thousands of positions in various private and public agencies.

H1N1 Mass Vaccination Drive will be held on:

FREE
The H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and your best protection against the flu this year.
Be safe! Get Vaccinated!
NO CHC BLUE CARD NEEDED

For more information, visit the Department of Public Health's H1N1 Preparedness Website at http://h1n1dph.gov.mp .

March 1-5, 2010, Monday to Friday
- 8 AM to 3 PM
- NAP (Food Stamp) Office-As Lito

March 6, 2010, Saturday
- 8 AM to 12 noon
- NMC Health Awareness Fair Northern Marianas College (NMC) in Fina Sisu

March 9, 2010, Tuesday
- 5 PM to 9 PM
- Tuesday Market Fishing Basin in Garapan

March 13, 2010, Saturday
- 8 AM to 12 noon
- Sabalu Market Civic Center in Susupe

The more people vaccinated, the less likely the flu will spread in the coming months.

You can also visit any health clinic on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to get vaccinated.

It's how the CNMI knows what it needs.
Help the CNMI get our fair share.
IT'S IN OUR HANDS
Census 2010
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 56

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Iraq votes, and America crosses its fingers

Early voting began in Iraq on Thursday ahead of Sunday's parliamentary elections. As Dr. Johnson said of the talking dog, the surprise about democracy in Iraq is not that it's done well, but that it is done at all.

Nearly seven years after the U.S. invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, Iraq still won't have peaceful, free and fair elections. That's not our fault, but theirs—and perhaps history's.

Thursday's early voting for soldiers and police officers who will be too busy to vote on Sunday had barely begun before bombs started going off.

At least a dozen people were killed and 57 injured in three bombings in Baghdad, two of them outside polling places. The attacks, all blamed on Sunni militants, were expected to continue—no surprise in that the Shiite government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has heavily stacked the process against Shia and Kurdish minorities.

One example: Six thousand candidates filed for 352 seats, and a government elections committee blacklisted 440 of them. They all were Sunni Muslims suspected of having had ties, however tenuous, to the Baathist Party that ruled Iraq under Saddam, who was hanged in December 2006.

Meanwhile, Shiite politician Hakim al-Zamili, who ran a Shiite militia death squad during the chaos that followed the American invasion, is expected to win a seat in parliament.

Perhaps the surest sign that democracy in Iraq is a work in progress: Zamili is on the same election slate as Ahmed Chalabi, who is expected not only to win a seat in parliament but also could be a cabinet minister in the next government.

Chalabi is the American-educated mathematician who, as a leader of the exiled Iraqi National Congress, sold the Bush administration on the idea that Saddam had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction. Once the darling of the U.S. neo-conservative movement, he recently was accused by Gen. Ray Odierno, the U.S. commander in Iraq, of campaigning to increase Iran's influence in Iraq.

Chalabi may turn out to have outsized influence in the next Iraqi government. Prime Minister Maliki's slate is leading in polls, but is not expected to win a majority of the seats. That means Chalabi could have a great deal to say about the make-up of a coalition government.

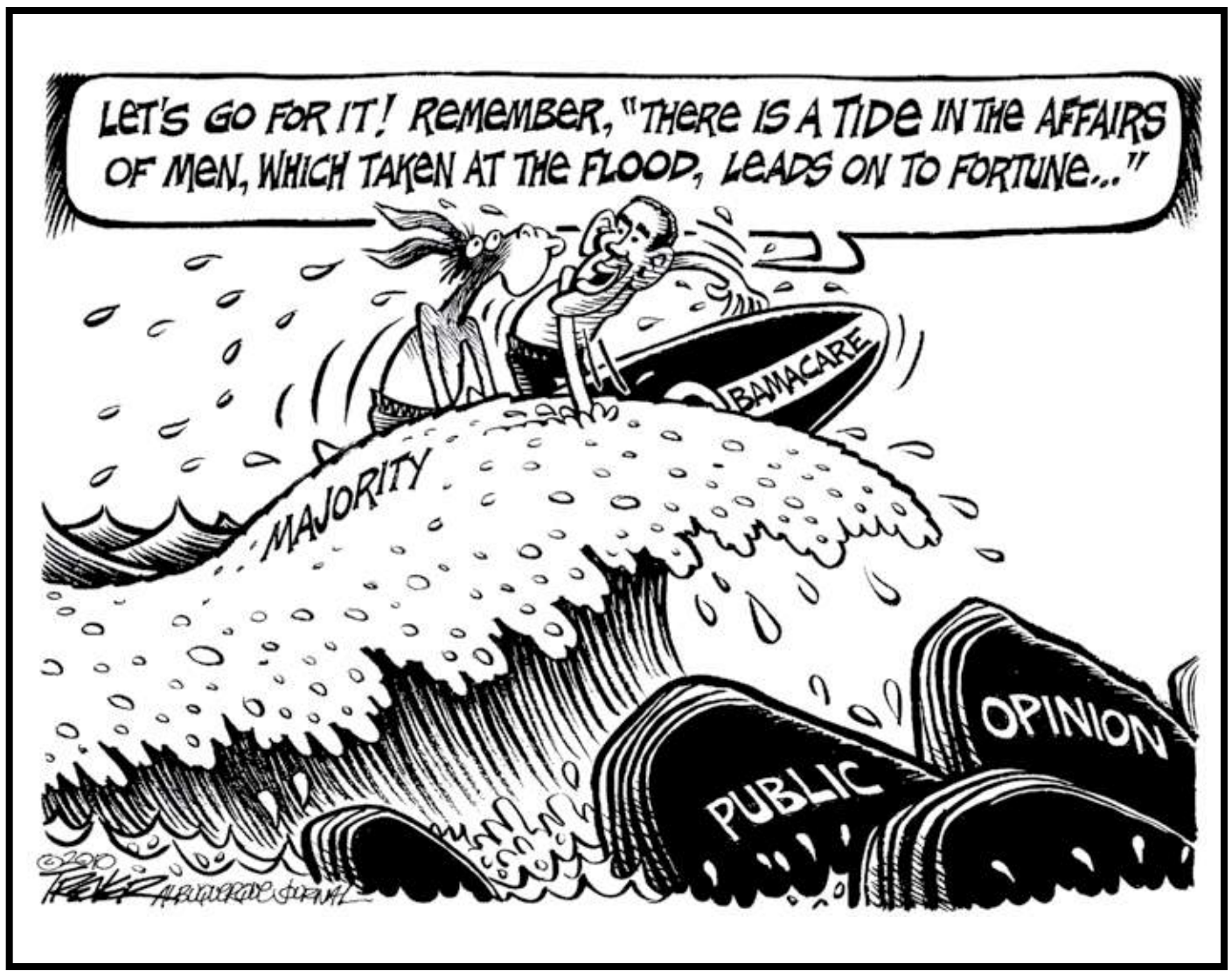
It's certain that the government will be Shiite. What isn't known is how it will treat the Sunni and Kurdish minorities, and how deep will be the ties it makes with Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

If Iraq again dissolves into sectarian violence—a distinct possibility if the minorities continue to be persecuted—it could dramatically affect President Barack Obama's plans to withdraw 40,000 of the 90,000 U.S. troops that remain in the country by August. The rest are scheduled to leave by the end of next year.

The outline for this script was written long ago. Iraq is two-thirds Shia, and democracy always was going to favor the majority. The only questions were—and still are—whether the rights of the minorities would be respected and how the minorities would respond.

For seven years, the United States has fought for and enforced a fragile peace. Having established a democracy in Iraq, however flawed, we must either abide by its decisions or plan for troops to abide there indefinitely.

(c) 2010, St. Louis Post-Dispatch


LET'S GO FOR IT! REMEMBER, "THERE IS A TIDE IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN, WHICH TAKEN AT THE FLOOD, LEADS ON TO FORTUNE..."
BAMACARE
MAJORITY
PUBLIC
OPINION

Finding the money the government needs

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Money—money! We never seem to have enough money to go around. But now the government doesn't seem to have enough of it also. It is toying with cutting work hours and searching for other ways to find more of it. Let's discuss some of the things the government can do. Some of the suggestions may hurt, but before you scream, consider the end results. All changes produce a bit of pain. These are only my suggestions. I am sure there more ways.

When we purchase an item, we are required to pay a gross revenue tax of 5 percent. So an item that is priced for $1, the store keeps $.95 and the $.05 should go to the government. Who does the monitoring of all sales and collection of money? How many times have we purchased something and not received a receipt? How does the government know that all the GRT money is correctly collected at the end of each quarter of the year? How much of this GRT is never reported and consequently never collected?

Recently while traveling in the Philippines, I noticed that every store, large and small, had a sign posted on its cash registers or on the walls nearby plainly stating that we, the customer, should ask for a receipt and if not given one to report this fact. Also the sign stated that a large fine and/or imprisonment will be imposed on the store owner should the tax be not paid. I really don't know how effective this is, but the sign made me aware that I must get a receipt and that the owner must report the tax I just paid.

How many times in the CNMI do we not receive a receipt? How much money is never reported? Consider, if for every dollar spent an actual payment of 5 percent were to be truthfully paid to the government, how much more money it would have? Collecting this money must be the diligent duty of the tax office. If necessary hire a private firm to collect this tax and pay them on a commission basis. I bet more money would come in than ever realized.

Another thing the government can do is to increase the sales tax to perhaps 7 percent. Most states including Hawaii have a much higher sales tax than we do. However, unfortunately no one has any idea what our gross domestic sales daily, weekly or even monthly is. We simply do not know. So how can we estimate our gross revenue tax? We need better accounting done by economists who can also estimate what to expect.

Another way to reduce government expenses is to **stop** all off-island travels for government workers. Consider the amount of money that is foolishly wasted by our government agencies to its members for off-island travel? Honestly, tell me how much information do they bring back to share with fellow workers? How many of the new ideas learned at conventions are ever incorporated into the agency as a new or better system?

I recall from my personal experience as a member of the Board of Education, that in four years not one new idea was introduced in the PSS from fellow members who had gone on trips. In fact, neither one name card nor pamphlet was passed around to fellow Board members. In my humble opinion, it was a total waste of money.

But the worst is when the traveler comes back, many times he hands in doctored receipts and pockets the difference. Can we afford to continue wasting money and manpower like this? Some one must do an accounting to see how much we would save and add to our operating budget.

Another method in which to save money is to reduce the amount of money allotted to our Legislature. Unless I am mistaken they receive about $150,000 per year for operating expenses above their salaries. If 29 members receive $150,000 per year the sum is $4,350,000. Where does this money go? It is spent for hiring relatives and friends for their offices, giving gifts, funeral expenses, and various other ways to their constituents. However if we reduce this amount to $75,000 for each member, this will come to $2,175,000 savings annually!

Hey, how about going after almost $6,000,000 owed to the government by overpayments to companies, misuse of funds by individuals in the government and other sources which have been traced by the Office of the Public Auditor over the years. Have we forgotten this? Why hasn't this money been recovered? Can we afford to turn our back on this huge sum of misappropriated funds? We must collect it.

It is time to reduce our over-bloated number of government workers. We can easily reduce the number of employees by at least 1,000 people and not feel any pinch in service. What would be the estimated saving? Assume $25,000 per annual times 1000 people equals $25,000,000. Add to this a saving of retirement pension contributions, fewer cars and gasoline. This could add another several hundred thousand dollars. How can any organization function well when its personnel expense is about 75 percent of its budget?

What do we do with the laid off workers? Train them in new jobs and help them get jobs in the private sector. As non-resident workers leave there will be more and more jobs opening up. Government must stop being the welfare state for our citizens.

See FINDING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Women hold up half the Sky

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Nu ren ban bian tian, the old Chinese proverb of our title, was made popular by Mao Zedeng and China's *Gòngchandang*. The half ratio may be less than 50 percent now since the one-child policy of Zhong Guo (Shanghai residents are now allowed to have two children) revealed the Confucian society's predilection for boys so that male Chinese (filial piety requires them to take care of their elders) now outnumber females (who were routinely aborted in the last 40 years) by 119 to 100. But in terms of the nation's economic productivity, particularly in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, half as a measure of female presence and strength might be understated.

More importantly, the metaphor in the context of the balancing yet holistic perspective of the *yin* and the *yang,* recently reflected in Barbara Straker's essay of the same title, reminds us again of the intellectual breakthroughs in this vein as chronicled by the likes of Joseph Campbell on myth, Rianne Eisler on cultural anthropology and Fritz Capra in physics, widely quoted by any serious thinker in gender partnership in our time.

It is projected that women's income will increase by 33 percent, $5.1 trillion in 2013, to a total $15.6 trillion worldwide; in comparison, the Chinese economy will increase by $3 trillion. Globally, women have the economic clout without the political presence, more so in China. Ditto in the CNMI.

Today's Women's Day take stock of the deep currents that propelled the world wide women's movements in the past two centuries. Historically, women's self-confidence was drawn out when equality in labor became necessary and the push for democratic process guided the full citizenship desire and participation of women.

Women before WWII were relegated to the domestic sphere, the private sector of society, and patriarchy dominated the public sector. This changed with the granting of women the right to vote, and grounded the status when women staffed the factory lines during WWII. That enabled women's gains in both political representation and legal rights.

If anything, images of women emerging from the Afghan *burkah,* as had happened earlier in Iran and the Iraq, furthered the emancipation of women from the stranglehold of humanity's historical machismo. That a reactionary backlash has also occurred should only make everyone take note that in the advancement of women, a step forward often gets two steps backward in return.

Christians today are tasked for a makeover. *Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire,* a book by Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker asks how an early vision of beauty evolved into a vision of torture.

In the '80s, in a bold attempt to smash the glass ceiling of pay and promotion in the West, women started dressing up like men (dudettes with cigars, remember?). A favored phrase was: "what men can do, we can do better." Being better may not be the point; doing it differently and in the manner that complements the other gender, might be a better goal. Women acting and looking like men-in-drag do not a feminist movement make! Practices of cooperation and collaboration have been the province of women. Males under stress fight or take to flight; females tend, attend and befriend.

The young Thornton Wilder's bestseller, *The Woman of Andros,* based on the classic story of Andria, an archetype of the virtue of hope, was rereleased last year. Its story of the metaphorical main character Chrysis, raises the fundamental question that everyone asks of themselves: "What do I want with my life?" The same question applies to community in a Wilder play written less than a decade later, *Our Town,* a current Broadway box office. The same question might be asked of Saipan and its residents!

The male perspective on change is to dam it, contain it, and control it, not unlike the World Bank-supported three-gorges dam in China's Chiang Jiang, a feat of masculine engineering that has wrought havoc to habitat. The women folks in Sichuan, Yunnan, Bali, the Andes and Bontoc, on the other hand, carved out the mountainside so that water from springs trickle down into manageable canals of human scale and water meander down to irrigate the fields without massively altering the environment.

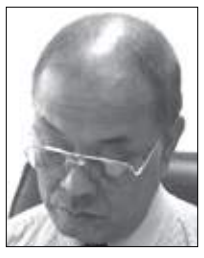
Today, developmental banks, military commands and aid agencies focus on supporting women and girls as the most effective way to combat extremism and global poverty. The world has awakened to an obvious truth, that women and girls are not incidental appendages to be tolerated, or irrationalities to be endured. In microfinance, and the micro-technology transfer, they are in fact the solution increasingly being sought.

Of course, the category 'women' is more than just physical gender. U.S. Navy Capt. Holly Graf, reportedly a foul-mouthed William Bligh of the high seas, was relieved of her command and booted out of her ship for conduct unbecoming of an officer. It is not that she is female; she, in fact, out-macho'd the male in the American Admiralty. A local legal luminary known for her feline affection is wanting of her care for people! Then there's my favorite talented female teacher whose presence at a multi-class grade level is a source of consternation among her colleagues when her dominance of peers at a time when PSS is encouraging team learning makes collaborative pedagogy fail.

We are tempted to ask social scene watchers to consider the substance and styles of ex-solons Tina and Frica, lawyer Janet and professor Debra, even Cinta when she is not arm-wrestling the boys, and compare them to Stanley and Pete, Charles and Ambrose, and John, and one might understand why the balancing influence of the *yin* is a needed counterpoint to the preponderance of the contentious *yang.* Might we have more Maya and Bruce routines? But, of course, we are not that rude to ask.

The Half the Sky Foundation has laid out an agenda for the world's women, initiated by a book of the same title by NY Times' Nicholas Kristol and Sheryll Wudunn. Our time fails to promote the innate possibilities of women. Instead, we continue to impose masculine prejudicial limits on them. Emancipation of women is needed as bondage of many forms still exists, but the more urgent challenge is to fully allow women to hold up half the sky! Let's, today, this month, and the rest of the year!

Kualidat Na Linala' Natibu



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John S. DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Antes de geran dos, i modun linalata gi hagas soñgsoñg ti mapot. Man-daña gi chechu gualu yan tasi pot mantension familia. Deste chagchag chatagmag matutuhon man-mamokat para i gualu ya ma-apprubecha man-machochu antes de u senmalag i atdau.

Yangin tiempun maipe, managasgas i gualu para u matanumi gi primet agua de Abrit. Estague` na tiempu `nai matutuhon man-nadoku simiyan golai, aguon haya, gulusina yan sombra petmanente. Ma-usune lokue pinegsai gaga para totche, kontudu peskan tasi.

Kanaha` todus munasesetbe falut ginen mantikan gaga `sino lañan niyog. I gima siha ti man-senmetgut gi halum pagyu. Lau dispues de este na ira, man-daña todus gi ma-areglan mayamag guma siha gi komunida.

Todu kinisecha (dispues de biradan metkau) mapatten ñaihon gi bisinu. Este na eksisiu patte gi kutturan tanu. Pot este na rason na taya` antes dibi sa todu man-machochochu` para nesessidat familia. Ayu i mangai sasyan solu karetan guaka. Los dimas, ma-usune man-mamokat para maseha manu.

Aguon natibu ha sumasaunau choda, kamuti, suni, nika, dagu yan mendioka. Dispasiu este na aguon mamtu gi halom estomagu. Guiya este mafananaan sentadan ñalañg, hayun natibu deste antigu na tiempu. Pagu kulan usun para kaddon manog yan tolañg gaga tat kumu guaka yan babue. Mampos inaminasa hinemlu natibu ginen dañkulu na tinilaika gi sentadaña.

I man-amkota, man-fafachochu entalu i gualu yan tasi. Pagu, kulan tafa` bisiu mangalileg yan fina mames gi menan television. Hasan ta espiha fina fisiku na eksisiu para ta yeñgyuñg i man-tikan sinturata. `Nai esta makat ta mueba hit, ta gulusuni mas man-mantika siha na neñkanu dispues ta fababan maisa hit ni gimen daiet (diet). Ai, dios mihu!

Hu tuñgu ha` na makat para ta bira tatte i homlu na modun linala natibu. Lau taya para u inaminasa yangin ta koni familia para i gualu gi uttimun semana maseha pot para tana gasgas i oriyan tinanom. Entre este `sino tana fañochu i pinegsai ni ta sosoda dispues gi oran nesesidat.

■ ■ ■

I chaguan gi oriyan guma yan chalan publiku mampos man-malahyu yan paska hagun niha. Mas sineñgi nu i tiempun maipe ya makat ta rega sa` menos hanum siuda. Ti namatman sa` siklu este na sinisede guine gi islata siha.

Estake magpu i tiempun kuaresma `nai u tunug i primet agua de Abrit. Fafatta talu kase siñku mesis antes de u megai uchan. Man-payun hit nu este na klasen klima deste antes. Lau mientras i matan hanum gi papa` tanu parehu minidoñgña deste antes, i usuña sige ha` ma-umenta pot mas ma-umenta i adelantun nuebu na soñgsoñg siha guine.

■ ■ ■

Man-alaimi tres man-amigu un` pueñge `nai man-huyuñg man-etupag. I unu gi sanmena hagas hanañga na u fan aka` i guihan. Dimalas. Dispues ha lie` na sige mañgoni i dos gachoñgña gi santatte.

I unu yan pitbetsoña ha ñañgon i otru na muñga malachai i fritadan babue sa` katna katnadan niha. Ti ha suñgun i sanmena ya mamaisen dididi para u siña gai teñguañg `an ha biragueparaiya siha guihe na pueñge. Ai durun chaleg dispues. De dios!

Letter to the Editor

Challenge accepted, albeit…

This is a response to the invitation by Mr. Ambrose Benette for a debate on Article XII matters. I accept the challenge for a debate on any subject about land alienation issues in the CNMI. My problem is I can only speak Chamorro and a little Carolinian. Hence, I will debate only in my language, i.e. Chamorro. Yangin listo si maestro Ambrose Benette para u debati segun i condicion para solu finu Chamorro, ayik i ora, fetcha, yan lugat maseha hafa na tiempo.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa

FINDING

From Page 10

Have people pay their government bills more promptly. A good example is the CHC. Many times I receive bills dated one to two years ago. What is this? When a service is performed by the hospital, it should be paid at that time. Many hospitals elsewhere will not allow service unless paid on the spot. Yes, we can make exceptions for certain cases. But to have an outstanding collectable account of about $18,000,000 and than request for more money to operate while this huge sum remains outdated and uncollected is something I find difficult to comprehend. CUC understands this. No payment- no power.

Another way is to consider increasing the amount of withholding taxes. Instead of refunding about 90 percent, lower it to about 75 to 80 percent for several years until we become more stabilized. This increase of withholding tax will include everyone. Consider that in Hawaii and across the United States, each individual must pay a Federal income tax, a state tax and a property tax. How much is left after paying three different taxes? We are truly blessed here.

Another way is to purchase more items made in the CNMI and do with less imports. In this manner more money stays here for circulation. We export over $100,000,000 yearly of money that could help our economy. Not only will our dollars stay here, but employment and new incentives for businesses will boom.

Why doesn't the government have several economists on their staff to help them plan and estimate short and long range financial plans? The legislature should definitely have at least one when it is considering a budget for the country. We have no idea what our flow of cash and product values are. An economist would be invaluable in helping us to better understand our financial weaknesses and strengths.

The above are only a few ideas. Maybe you can think of more ways. But save we must! I fully realize that we are not the only country suffering. But we must consider making more sacrifices than ever before. We have failed to plan for the bad times and now we must pay the price. Planning is not a dirty word. It is a vital necessity for us to grow.

By our willingness to solve our monetary problems, we will gain strength, pride and dignity. It will be proof that we can overcome any dilemma that we have to face. Regardless of the pain, whatever must be done to become financially healthy again **let's do it**!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°

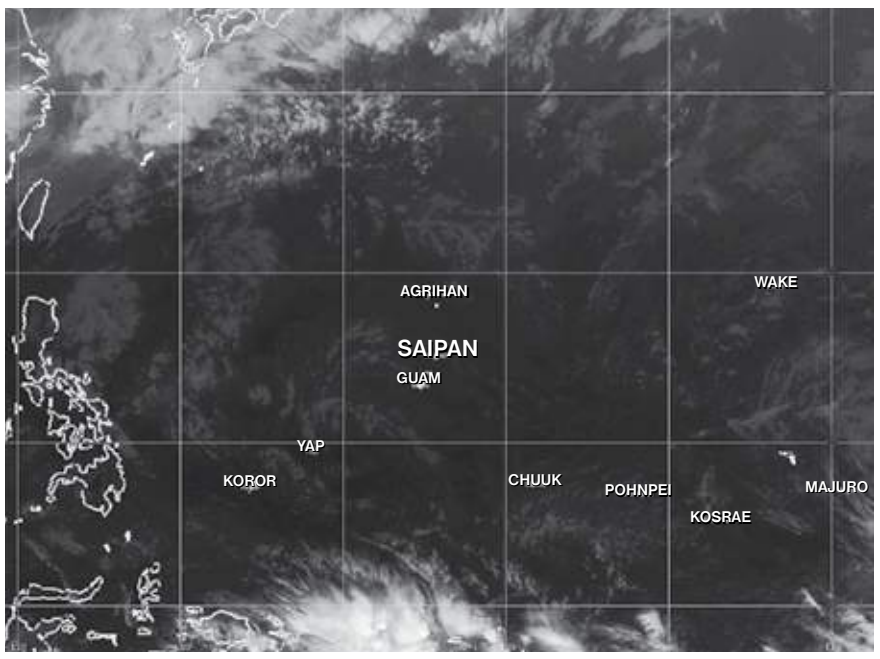
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲83	▼75
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲72	▼62
Beijing	Dreary	▲33	▼19
Hong Kong	Rain	▲62	▼51
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼69
London	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼33
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼50
Manila	Showers	▲90	▼74
Melbourne	Rain	▲68	▼56
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼61
New York	Partly Sunny	▲52	▼36
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲41	▼32
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲36	▼22
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲44	▼27
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲49	▼34
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲49	▼30
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲57	▼45
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲37	▼21
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼29
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲56	▼40

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence is producing widely scattered showers over the southern Marianas between 11N and 17N from 139E to 149E and farther west between 13N and 20N from 131E to 137E. Identical weather also exists over Pohnpei between 6N and 9N from 156E to 162E. Convergent low-level winds are combining with divergent upper-level winds to produce scattered showers north of Kwajalein and Majuro between 9N and 17N from 168E to 180 and also over Tarawa and Butaritari atolls south of a line from 3N167E to 3N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:16 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
7:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
12:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
8:38 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:47 AM	12:10 PM
Tuesday	1:38 AM	1:03 PM
Wednesday	2:27 AM	1:55 PM
Thursday	3:11 AM	2:46 PM
Friday	3:52 AM	3:35 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:30pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL639	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily Ops 5min later eff Mar 1

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/639	5:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Rota High School sweeps PSS drill competition

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Kagman High School cadets pose for a group photo after bagging second place in the overall competition. Kagman High School also won in the Armed Drill category.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rota High School cadets perform in the Color Guard/Rifle competition. Rota High School was not only the overall winner in the Annual Inter-island Drill Competition on Saturday morning, but also bagged the first place in the Color Guard/Saber and Exhibition Rifle Drill competitions.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota High School emerged as this year's overall winner of CNMI-PSS Multiple School Unit Annual Inter-Island Drill Competition held last Saturday at the Army Reserve Center.

The 22-member team bested four other schools during the four-hour competition.

Led by Cadet Lt. Col. Elisa Taisacan, the team also won two of the six special awards including the Best in Color Guard Saber Drill and Best in Exhibition Rifle Drill.

This year was the second time that Rota High School bagged the overall championship in the six-year history of the competition.

Taisacan attributed the team's success to the hard work and sacrifices of each member who diligently rehearsed for their performance since October last year.

"It feels great! We've been preparing since the school opened and we've been practicing almost everyday for this moment. I am very proud that we made it!" she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said the 22 cadets were specially hand-picked to represent from the school's JROTC program for the competition.

"It's not just all about winning…but it's coming together as a whole group and showcase what we have learned in our JROTC program and what this program has instilled in us. We're all winners today!" Taisacan said.

Last year, Taisacan was part of the Rota High School team that competed in the color guard saber drill where the school also bagged the honor. Marianas High School was the overall team champion in 2009.

Adjudged second best team winner was Kagman High School which also received two special awards—Best in Armed Drill and Best in Fancy Drill categories.

Saipan Southern High School battalion meantime emerged as the third place winner and the recipient of the Best Color Guard Rifle Exhibition award.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Southern High School show what they've got in the Exhibition Rifle Drill competition. SSHS placed third in the overall category.

Awarded fourth and fifth placers were Tinian High School and Marianas High School, respectively. Tinian High School was also named the competition's Best in Armed Drill Exhibition.

PSS director of army instruction Lt. Col. Robert Gay was overwhelmed by the turnout of the competition, which saw hundreds of spectators and supporters of the students and the JROTC program.

Saipan Tribune learned that about 120 cadets participated in the event of which 50 were from Rota and Tinian while the rest hailed from Saipan.

There are five public secondary schools in the Commonwealth—Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian High, and Rota High School.

This year's contest was hosted by MHS Dolphin Battalion under the supervision of senior Army instructor Capt. Ernest Torres.

Lt. Col.Gay and Capt. Torres lauded the involvement of other government agencies during the competition which included the Department of Public Safety which provided a standby ambulance throughout the competition.

The presence of all the principals of the participating schools and their supporters were also lauded by the officials.

Lt. Col. Gay said the drill competition aims to promote discipline and leadership skills, develop self-confidence, teamwork, and camaraderie among peers and all contest categories are based and rated according to U.S. Army manuals and regulations. Besides the annual competition, cadets are also scheduled to participate in this month's five-day Spring Camp on March 24 to 28.

Saturday's competition was keynoted by Board of Education secretary/treasurer Tanya King.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tinian High School in one of their brightest moments. THS placed fourth in the overall category.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas High School finished fifth in the overall category.

Business

China says it will move cautiously on currency

BEIJING (AP)—China's central bank governor acknowledged Saturday that Beijing is using its controversial exchange-rate controls to cope with the global economic crisis and said it will be cautious about retreating from the policy.

Gov. Zhou Xiaochuan's comments come as Beijing faces rising pressure to ease controls that Washington and other trading partners say keep its yuan undervalued, swelling its trade surplus. President Barack Obama says he will press for an end to currency systems that he says depress export prices and hurt American companies.

At a news conference during the annual meeting of China's ceremonial legislature, Zhou said a "special foreign exchange mechanism" is part of Beijing's crisis response. China has held the yuan steady against the dollar since late 2008 in an apparent effort to help China's exporters compete abroad, though authorities have never openly confirmed that.

Obama vowed last month to "get much tougher" with China in trade disputes. Some American companies are pressing Congress to enact punitive tariffs on Chinese goods if Beijing fails to act. Critics say the yuan is undervalued by up to 40 percent.

"Under crisis conditions, we do not rule out the possibility of adopting special policies, including special foreign exchange mechanism. This is part of the package of policies to deal with the global financial crisis," Zhou said at a news conference.

He said that while such a policy would be "withdrawn sooner or later," the global outlook is still uncertain and the foundation of a recovery is not certain.

"If we say we withdraw from nonconventional policy and return to conventional economic policy, we must be very cautious and discreet in choosing the timing. This also includes the renminbi exchange rate policy," Zhou said, referring to the yuan by its other official name.

Zhou gave no indication when Beijing might allow the yuan to rise, repeating Premier Wen Jiabao's statement Friday that it would be kept basically stable.

The yuan's value was tied to the dollar for decades, but Beijing broke that link in 2005 and allowed the currency to rise by about 20 percent through late 2008. That rise was halted after the global crisis hit.

AP
Chinese Finance Minister Xie Xuren gestures during a press conference in Beijing, China, Saturday, March 6, 2010.

GM to reinstate 600 dealerships slated to be cut

NEW YORK (AP)—General Motors Co. will reinstate 661 dealerships it sought to drop from its sales network.

GM executives said Friday that the dealerships—more than half of those seeking to stay with the automaker—will receive letters giving them the option to remain open. GM said it would not have enough time to negotiate with all 1,100 dealerships that appealed the automaker's decision to close them within a four-month window imposed by the federal government.

"By doing this we save a lot of time, energy and dollars," said Jim Bunnell, GM general manager of network support, saying the company wished to avoid a "very large arbitration process."

As part of its restructuring, GM last year told about 2,000 dealerships it would not renew their franchise agreements once they run out in October 2010. But the dealerships have said GM treated them unfairly, and last month Congress passed a law requiring an appeals process for the dealers.

GM's decision to keep the additional showrooms open effectively shrinks the number of appeals it has to contend with. Arbitration hearings for the dealers who didn't get offers but still want to stay with GM will begin later this month.

The cuts to GM's 6,000-dealer network were designed to compensate for much lower demand for cars and trucks, but some dealers have argued that lots that are still profitable are at risk, and that the automaker hasn't offered enough details about how it's choosing which businesses to shutter.

Toyota disputes critic who blames electronics

NEW YORK (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp. plans Monday to try to undercut suggestions that its electronics systems caused the sudden acceleration problems that led to the recall of more than 8 million vehicles.

The automaker plans an event in which it will seek to debunk a critic who claims faulty gas pedals did not cause the sudden acceleration.

Toyota will aim to duplicate the scenario created by David W. Gilbert, a professor at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Gilbert told Congress on Feb. 23 that he was able to recreate sudden acceleration in a Toyota vehicle by manipulating its electronics.

The company is calling in the director of Stanford University's Center for Automotive Research to try to refute the claims. Toyota said Stanford professor Chris Gerdes will show that the malfunctions Gilbert produced "are completely unrealistic under real-world conditions and can easily be reproduced on a wide range of vehicles made by other manufacturers."

Stanford's Center for Automotive Research is funded by a group of auto companies, including Toyota.

Toyota also has hired a consulting firm to study whether electronic problems could cause unintended acceleration. The firm, Exponent Inc., released an interim report that has found no link between the two.

The event planned Monday is part of a broad campaign by the world's biggest automaker to discredit critics, repair its damaged reputation and begin restoring trust in its vehicles.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

AIG to get $231M if sale of Asian unit crumbles

NEW YORK (AP)—American International Group Inc. will receive a termination fee of $230.6 million if the sale of its Asian life insurance business to Britain's Prudential PLC falls through. In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission late Friday, AIG said the deal, announced March 1 and given the go-ahead by the U.S. government, still requires regulatory and shareholder approval. The sale of American International Assurance Co., or AIA Group Ltd., is expected to net AIG $25 billion in cash and $10.5 billion in securities. It's the largest in a series of deals in AIG's efforts to restructure and pay off its $182.5 billion rescue package from the government.

AMD reduces pay package for CEO by 14 pct. in 2009

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Advanced Micro Devices Inc., the world's No. 2 maker of computer microprocessors, reduced its CEO's pay package 14 percent last year. The company cut executives' pay in response to falling sales. CEO Dirk Meyer received a package for the 2009 fiscal year that AMD valued at $4.5 million. That's according to Associated Press calculations based on a regulatory filing late Friday. For 2008, his pay package was valued at $5.3 million. In AMD's 2009 fiscal year, which ended Dec. 26, Meyer received restricted stock and options of $3.7 million. In 2008, his stock-and-options package was $4.4 million.

Banks shuttered in Fla., Ill., Md., Utah

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Regulators on Friday shuttered banks in Florida, Illinois, Maryland and Utah, boosting to 26 the number of bank failures in the U.S. so far this year following the 140 brought down in 2009 by mounting loan defaults and the recession. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. took over Sun American Bank, based in Boca Raton, Fla., with $535.7 million in assets and $443.5 million in deposits. Also seized were Bank of Illinois of Normal, Ill., with $211.7 million in assets and $198.5 million in deposits; Waterfield Bank in Germantown, Md., with $155.6 million in assets and $156.4 million in deposits; and Centennial Bank in Ogden, Utah, with $215.2 million in assets and $205.1 million in deposits.

Merkel: No financial help for Greece

BERLIN (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel has avoided giving debt-plagued Greece a commitment of financial assistance, as Athens was rattled by more strikes and violent protests by unions outraged by harsh economic austerity measures.

Greece didn't ask for financial support, and Germany didn't offer any in talks Friday between Merkel and Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, while Merkel said there would be a common push to crack down on market speculation that has led Greece's cost of borrowing to skyrocket.

"I repeat that Greece has not requested financial support ... and I thank (Germany) for its cooperation in facing speculators," Papandreou said on the second of a four-city tour that began in Luxembourg Friday morning and will take him to Paris Sunday and Washington on Tuesday.

"Germany can express its solidarity," Merkel said, adding that she made it clear that "we are here to help, show understanding."

Merkel added that her country could help Greece with its expertise and in other ways. Strict fiscal policy has helped propel Germany to Europe's biggest economy.

But she didn't give any specifics of how Germany would show solidarity, or what concrete steps will be taken to tackle speculators.

"The support was political support, without mechanisms," government spokesman Giorgos Petalotis told reporters after the meeting, which was also attended by Greek Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou.

Still, the Greeks insisted they were satisfied with the outcome of the meeting, and had received all that could be expected.

"We need political and moral support and we got that today from the German government," Papandreou said.

Earlier this week, the European Commission said it would call in market regulators and banks to discuss possible problems with the market for credit default swaps on sovereign debt.

The swaps are a form of insurance against a borrower defaulting on debt—and the market for them has swelled in recent weeks as traders weigh up the risk that Greece might not be able to repay its massive debt.

Merkel's comments echoed previous remarks made this week amid market and media speculation that the European Union may be preparing some sort of bailout aimed at helping Greece cope with its economic woes.

Asked about media reports of a potential rescue plan being worked on by European nations, Greek government officials said they were unaware of any such discussions or plans.

Cloud of suspicion

A look at the debt-concealing tactics that helped fuel Greece's financial troubles:

1. **Formation of European Monetary Union (1998)** To enter the EMU, a country had to meet four economic standards, all of which Greece failed
2. **Shaky fix** Greece had two years fix its economic situation before an EMU re-evaluation; it tried to reduce deficits by mortgaging government entities, masking loans as sales
3. **'Adriadne deal'** This 2000 deal let Greece receive 355 million euros in exchange for national lottery revenues
4. **'Aiolos deal'** In 2001, Greece got 650 million euros in exchange for landing fees at Greek airports through 2019
5. **Goldman Sachs** Once part of the EMU, Greece wanted to continue domestic spending while staying within EMU rules; in 2001, Goldman Sachs helped Greece with a $15 billion bond sale following a loan-turned-currency swap; Goldman got $300 million for its services
6. **Effect of debt-hiding deals** Under EMU law, disclosing such deals was not required; in 2002 the law was changed, but Greece was not required to publicize deals made before the law was enacted; the deals helped Greece improve its budget and meet its EMU targets, but hid the realities of its troubled financial situation

© 2010 MCT
Source: Chicago Tribune
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

Nation

Paramedics hail 'hero' boy from Arizona bus crash

SACATON, Ariz. (AP)—A bilingual 4th grader hurt in an Arizona bus accident that killed six people and injured more than a dozen others translated from an ambulance stretcher for busy rescue workers as they hurried to set up a triage center, authorities said Saturday.

Oscar Rodriguez of Las Vegas, Nev., was labeled a hero by firefighters and paramedics for helping them communicate with non-English speaking passengers just after Friday's predawn crash on an interstate.

They presented him with gifts and a certificate that reads "Hero of the day" during a visit with him at a Phoenix hospital Saturday.

"This kid stayed calm and was brave more than any other veteran I've worked with," said Kenneth Leslie, a paramedic who, with his partner, was the first to arrive at the scene.

The bus was traveling from the central Mexican state of Zacatecas to Los Angeles.

It entered the United States at El Paso, Texas, and was headed to Phoenix to change drivers when it hit a pickup truck, veered onto the left shoulder of the road, overcorrected and rolled. The roof of the bus was crushed and its windows were knocked out.

Rodriguez, 11, was one of 22 passengers aboard the bus when it crashed at about 5:30 a.m. MST on the Gila River Indian Reservation, some 25 miles south of downtown Phoenix.

AP

Oscar Rodriguez, 11, talks to Gila River paramedics in his room at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix, Saturday, March 6, 2010.

Rodriguez and 15 others suffered injuries, including head injuries and broken spines and pelvises. More than a dozen people remained hospitalized Saturday, including the bus driver who was among nine listed in critical condition at area hospitals.

Maricopa Medical Center hospital spokesman Michael Murphy called Rodriguez "a real trouper" and said he was in good condition. He didn't offer specifics on Rodriguez's injuries.

2 missing teen cases, 2 different police responses

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The disappearances of 14-year-old Amber Dubois and 17-year-old Chelsea King illustrate a sad fact: not all missing children cases are treated the same.

Chelsea disappeared Feb. 25, last seen in a park with running clothes. The case sparked a search involving about 1,500 law enforcement officials and thousands of volunteers. It ended five days later when a body was found in a shallow lakeside grave.

Amber was walking to school when she vanished a year ago just 10 miles north of the site where Chelsea was last seen. Leads went nowhere. The news media showed little interest.

After prosecutors charged a convicted sex offender in Chelsea's death, a search for Amber has intensified. On Saturday, police drained a pond for a second day at Kit Carson Park in Escondido to search for evidence of Amber, Lt. Craig Carter said.

Obama turns up the heat for health care overhaul

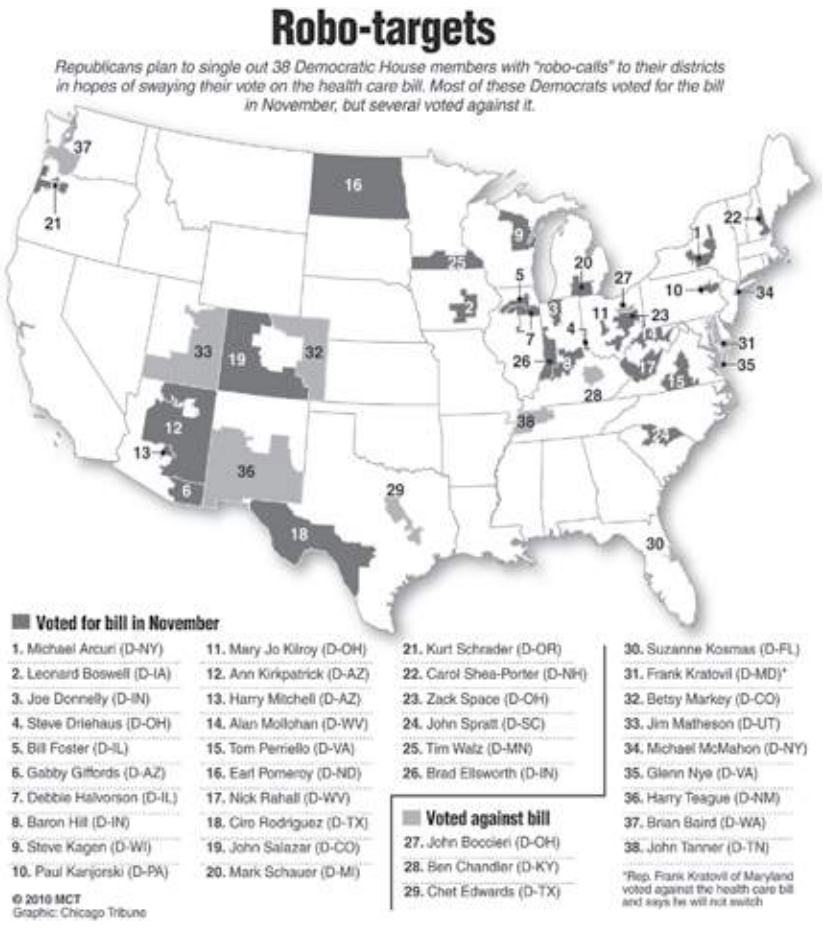
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is trying to persuade a weary public and wavering Democrats to get behind his frantic, late-stage push on health care, while Republicans dig in and demand starting from scratch after a year's worth of work.

"Now, despite all the progress and improvements we've made, Republicans in Congress insist that the only acceptable course on health care is to start over. But you know what? The insurance companies aren't starting over," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday.

"I just met with some of them on Thursday, and they couldn't give me a straight answer as to why they keep arbitrarily and massively raising premiums—by as much as 60 percent in states like Illinois. If we do not act, they will continue to do this."

Republicans were not swayed.

"It's not too late: We can, and we must, stop this government takeover of health care," said Rep. Parker Griffith, a retired physician and a first-term congressman from Alabama who switched parties in December and delivered the GOP message.


Robo-targets
Republicans plan to single out 38 Democratic House members with "robo-calls" to their districts in hopes of swaying their vote on the health care bill. Most of these Democrats voted for the bill in November, but several voted against it.
Voted for bill in November
1. Michael Arcuri (D-NY)
2. Leonard Boswell (D-IA)
3. Joe Donnelly (D-IN)
4. Steve Driehaus (D-OH)
5. Bill Foster (D-IL)
6. Gabby Giffords (D-AZ)
7. Debbie Halvorson (D-IL)
8. Baron Hill (D-IN)
9. Steve Kagen (D-WI)
10. Paul Kanjorski (D-PA)
11. Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH)
12. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ)
13. Harry Mitchell (D-AZ)
14. Alan Mollohan (D-WV)
15. Tom Perriello (D-VA)
16. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND)
17. Nick Rahall (D-WV)
18. Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX)
19. John Salazar (D-CO)
20. Mark Schauer (D-MI)
21. Kurt Schrader (D-OR)
22. Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH)
23. Zack Space (D-OH)
24. John Spratt (D-SC)
25. Tim Walz (D-MN)
26. Brad Ellsworth (D-IN)
Voted against bill
27. John Boccieri (D-OH)
28. Ben Chandler (D-KY)
29. Chet Edwards (D-TX)
30. Suzanne Kosmas (D-FL)
31. Frank Kratovil (D-MD)*
32. Betsy Markey (D-CO)
33. Jim Matheson (D-UT)
34. Michael McMahon (D-NY)
35. Glenn Nye (D-VA)
36. Harry Teague (D-NM)
37. Brian Baird (D-WA)
38. John Tanner (D-TN)
*Rep. Frank Kratovil of Maryland voted against the health care bill and says he will not switch
© 2010 MCT
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

Va. AG: Colleges can't ban gay discrimination

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Virginia's attorney general has advised the state's public colleges that they don't have the authority to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, saying only the General Assembly has that power.

The letter sent by Attorney General Kenneth Cuccinelli to state college presidents and other officials Thursday drew swift criticism from Democrats and gay rights activists.

Cuccinelli said the legislature has repeatedly refused to exercise its authority. As recently as Tuesday, a subcommittee killed legislation that would have banned job discrimination against gay state employees.

"It is my advice that the law and public policy of the Commonwealth of Virginia prohibit a college or university from including 'sexual orientation,' 'gender identity,' 'gender expression,' or like classification, as a protected class within its nondiscrimination policy, absent specific authorization from the General Assembly," Cuccinelli wrote.

The Republican advised college governing boards to "take appropriate actions to bring their policies in conformance with the law."

Jon Blair, chief executive officer of the gay rights group Equality Virginia, said Cuccinelli's "radical actions are putting Virginia at risk of losing both top students and faculty, and discouraging prospective ones from coming here."

C. Richard Cranwell, state Democratic Party chairman, said Virginia's colleges and universities were more than capable of setting policies that work for them "without meddling from Ken Cuccinelli."

The attorney general said his letter merely stated Virginia law, which prohibits discrimination because of "race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, or disability," but makes no mention of sexual orientation.

Cuccinelli said the criticism was coming from people who have been frustrated in their attempts to change the law.

"None of them suggest our reading of the law is wrong. It's people who don't like the policy speaking up because it's their opportunity to go on the attack," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US ed secretary's visit to Ala. school draws ire

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Alabama's Legislative Black Caucus on Saturday called on U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan to cancel a planned appearance at Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery. State Rep. Alvin Holmes said the school and its principal publicly opposed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Selma-Montgomery march in 1965. Holmes said it was "insulting" to King and civil rights protesters that President Barack Obama's top education aide was scheduled to appear at the school Monday. "If he doesn't cancel, we're going to picket," Holmes told The Associated Press.

Sandra Abrevaya, a spokeswoman for Duncan, said the agency was not aware of the caucus' request and had no immediate comment.

Police: 8 teens shot while leaving Indiana concert

GARY, Ind. (AP)—Authorities say eight teenage boys were shot while leaving a Gary, Ind., skating rink where they were attending a concert. Police Cpl. Gabrielle King says "chaos broke loose" when a fight erupted Friday night event at World of Skates. Police say the shooting started in the parking lot. The victims were taken to three area hospitals, where some remained Saturday. Police say they ranged in age from 14 to 18, with wounds in the legs, wrist, stomach or back. King said injuries weren't believed to be life-threatening.

Key West, Fla., man wins conch shell blowing title

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—A sixth-generation Key West resident, who first blew a conch shell as a child, played two shells simultaneously to take top honors Saturday in the island's 48th annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest. Clinton Curry, 36, followed his two-toned toot with a portion of composer Aram Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance" on a single shell, earning applause from several hundred spectators. "The thing I like best about blowing the conch shell is that it helps preserve the culture of Key Westers," Curry said.

Asia

China says it's up to the US to improve relations

BEIJING (AP)—China said Sunday that it is up to the United States to improve relations that soured over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and a meeting between President Barack Obama and the Dalai Lama.

Beijing was incensed by Washington's January announcement of a $6.4 billion weapons package for Taiwan, the self-governing island it considers Chinese territory. Beijing suspended military exchanges and has threatened to retaliate against U.S. aerospace firms involved in the deal.

Beijing protested again when Obama met at the White House with the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, whom Beijing accuses of seeking independence for the Himalayan region.

"The responsibility for the difficulties in China-U.S relations does not lie with China," Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi told a news conference held on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the National People's Congress, China's legislature.

AP

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, third from right leaves after a press conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, Sunday, March 7, 2010.

Yang said the arms sale and meeting had undermined China's interests. "The United States should take seriously China's position and respect China's core interests," he said.

He did not indicate if a recent visit by two high-level U.S. officials, Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg and Senior White House Asia adviser Jeffrey Bader, had helped put relations back on track. The two sides also have differences over trade and how to deal with Iran's nuclear plans.

Yang said the two sides held "in-depth and candid discussions," but did not give details.

Communist rebels kill 11 Philippine soldiers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Communist rebels ambushed a Philippine army platoon south of Manila on Saturday, killing at least 11 soldiers and wounding seven others in one of the military's largest recent losses, an army spokesman said.

About 60 New People's Army guerrillas who ambushed the soldiers outside Mansalay township in Mindoro Oriental province also are thought to have suffered casualties, said Lt. Col. Noel Detoyato, spokesman for the army's 2nd Infantry Division.

The three-hour battle ended when army reinforcements arrived and the guerrillas withdraw, Detoyato said. Troops were pursuing the rebels, he said.

It was the biggest loss for the army in a single encounter with the rebels this year. Last month, rebels killed five soldiers and wounded eight others in a clash in a mountain village in the northern Philippines.

Troops have been deployed to the area of Saturday's ambush, about 150 miles (240 kilometers) south of Manila, to prevent the rebels from extorting money from candidates to allow them to campaign in May elections, Detoyato said.

The military says the rebels have collected millions of pesos (tens of thousands of dollars) in "permit to campaign" and "permit to win" fees from candidates running for local and national positions.

In a statement last week, the Communist Party of the Philippines denounced the military's allegations as "dirty psywar attacks." It said the permits were "guidelines" to ensure that campaigns "do not violate the people's rights and interests, and are conducted in an orderly and peaceful manner" in guerrilla zones.

The rebels have about 4,000 fighters, down from a peak of about 25,000 in the mid-1980s, according to military estimates.

They have been waging a 41-year rural-based insurgency that has triggered human rights abuses and stunted economic development.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia opposition fires lawmaker in 'Allah' spat

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's opposition has fired an outspoken lawmaker who broke ranks with his party in a religious dispute over the use of the word "Allah" by non-Muslims, party officials said Sunday. The move follows weeks of turmoil in opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's three-party alliance, which is battling concerns that nearly a dozen opposition legislators might switch sides and enable the ruling coalition to regain the two-thirds parliamentary majority it lost in 2008 elections. The alliance has lost four members of Parliament in less than a month. Anwar's People's Justice Party announced late Saturday it was kicking out Zulkifli Noordin, a lawmaker who has repeatedly clashed with other opposition officials and recently filed a police complaint against his own colleague for stating that non-Muslims can use the word "Allah" as a translation for "God."

British PM pledges vehicles to battle Afghan bombs

KABUL (AP)—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown promised British troops 200 new patrol vehicles that can resist roadside bombs more effectively during an unannounced visit Saturday to southern Afghanistan. Brown made the trip to Camp Bastion in Helmand province to thank some of the 4,000 British soldiers who are involved in a 3-week-old NATO offensive to wrest control of the Taliban haven of Marjah from the insurgents. "We will do everything we can to support you with the equipment necessary and the resources you need," he told the troops, according to the British Press Association.

Hailstorm delays sports, trains in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—A severe thunderstorm dumped hail and rain on the eastern Australian city of Melbourne on Saturday, delaying sporting events, shutting down transportation and forcing the evacuation of a train station when the storm tore a hole in its roof. The Bureau of Meteorology said the storm blanketed roads with hail and brought an inch (2.5 centimeters) of rain in less than an hour. "It was a very dangerous thunderstorm," said senior forecaster Richard Carlyon. "We don't often see storm cells like that." The weather bureau forecast more storms through the evening.

World

Aftershocks weaken Chile's quake-damaged buildings

CONCEPCION, Chile (AP)—A father's unanswered cry for his missing son rang out Saturday from the wreckage of a fallen 15-story apartment building that has become a symbol of Chile's devastating earthquake.

"Jose Luis! Jose Luis!" cried the man, Jose Leon, peering into holes in the concrete that had been carefully cut by rescuers who used body-sniffing dogs to help recover victims.

Emergency workers said Saturday that there is no hope of finding more survivors in the building, and that continuing aftershocks have made the rubble too unstable for firefighters to continue looking for 21-year-old Jose Luis Leon, the only known remaining victim not recovered. Shortly afterward, a huge yellow excavator began clawing into the concrete slabs and twisted metal to completely demolish the structure.

"The family understands that there is nothing else the firefighters can do," Cmdr. Juan Carlos Subercaseaux told Chile's Radio Cooperativa, suggesting that the son's body might be recoverable for burial once the demolition is done.

At least seven significant aftershocks shook Chile on Saturday, the largest with a preliminary magnitude of 5.1, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

No additional damage or injuries were immediately reported, but aftershocks have dangerously weakened buildings all across the disaster zone, including a 22-story office tower whose now-exposed upper floors have partly pancacked and threaten to crash down onto downtown Concepcion. The city's mayor has announced at least five contracts for controlled demolitions of such buildings.

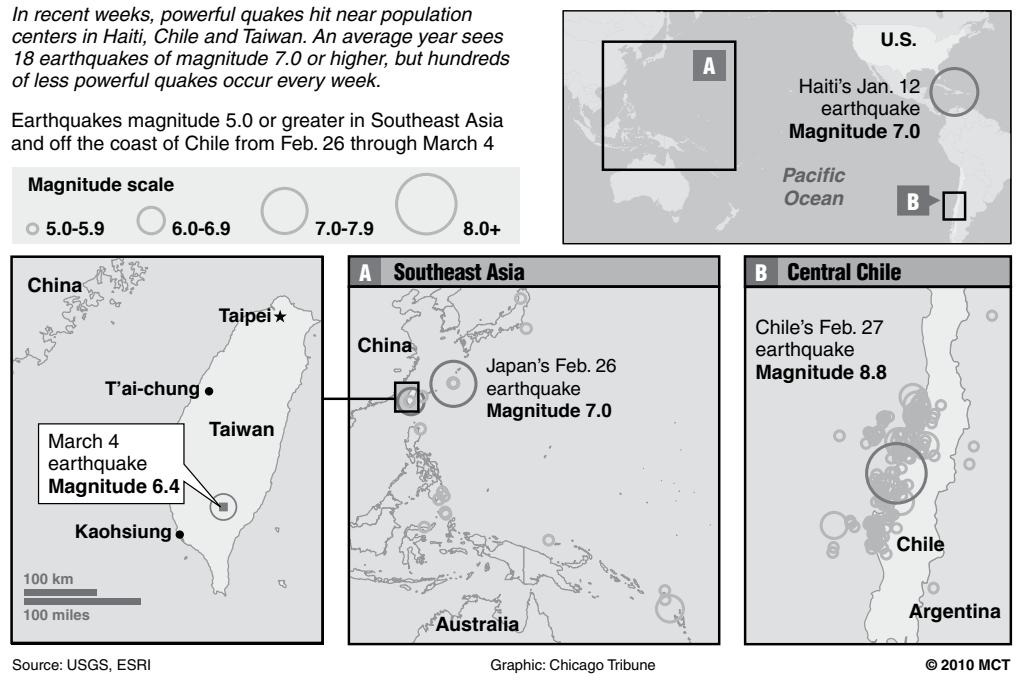
At least 500,000 homes were destroyed, but the figure could reach 1.5 million once surveys are complete, Housing Minister Patricia Poblete said.

At least the Leon family knows the body is somewhere inside the wreckage of the Alto Rio apartment building. A week after the 8.8-magnitude earthquake and tsunami, hundreds of people are still searching for relatives each day with the help of community radio station Bio-Bio, which broadcasts their appeals day and night. With power still out in vast stretches of the disaster area, phone lines downed and cell service spotty, communication was difficult or impossible for most survivors.

Killer quakes aren't the whole story

In recent weeks, powerful quakes hit near population centers in Haiti, Chile and Taiwan. An average year sees 18 earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 or higher, but hundreds of less powerful quakes occur every week.

Earthquakes magnitude 5.0 or greater in Southeast Asia and off the coast of Chile from Feb. 26 through March 4



Source: USGS, ESRI Graphic: Chicago Tribune © 2010 MCT

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraqi voters head to polls for historic ballot

BAGHDAD (AP)—Under a blanket of tight security designed to thwart insurgent attacks, Iraqis went to the polls Sunday in an election testing the ability of the country's still-fragile democracy to move forward amid uncertainty over a looming U.S. troop drawdown and still jagged sectarian divisions. Almost 20 million voters are eligible to turn out for the election, only the second vote for a full term of parliament since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion seven years ago this month. About 6,200 candidates are competing for 325 seats in the new parliament. Insurgents have vowed to disrupt the elections with violence, but security was very tight across the capital where only select authorized vehicles were allowed on the streets and voters headed to the ballot box on foot. The borders have been sealed, the airport closed and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi military and police were on the streets.

Iran's Ahmadinejad: Sept. 11 attacks a 'big lie'

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Saturday called the official version of the Sept. 11 attacks a "big lie" used by the U.S. as an excuse for the war on terror, state media reported. Ahmadinejad's comments, made during an address to Intelligence Ministry staff, come amid escalating tensions between the West and Tehran over its disputed nuclear program. They show that Iran has no intention of toning itself down even with tighter sanctions looming because of its refusal to halt uranium enrichment. "September 11 was a big lie and a pretext for the war on terror and a prelude to invading Afghanistan," Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying by state TV. He called the attacks a "complicated intelligence scenario and act."

Dictator's son winner of Togo election

LOME, Togo (AP)—Togo's election commission on Saturday declared the son of the country's late dictator winner of the presidential race, extending the family's rule into a fifth decade in a deep blow to Togo's opposition, which vowed to take to the streets in protest. Provisional results indicate President Faure Gnassingbe won 1.2 million votes, representing 60.9 percent of the roughly 2 million votes cast in the tiny country, said Issifou Tabiou, the head of the election body. Opposition leader Jean-Pierre Fabre, who had earlier accused the ruling party of rigging the election, received 692,584 votes, or 33.9 percent.

In Celebration of Her New Life

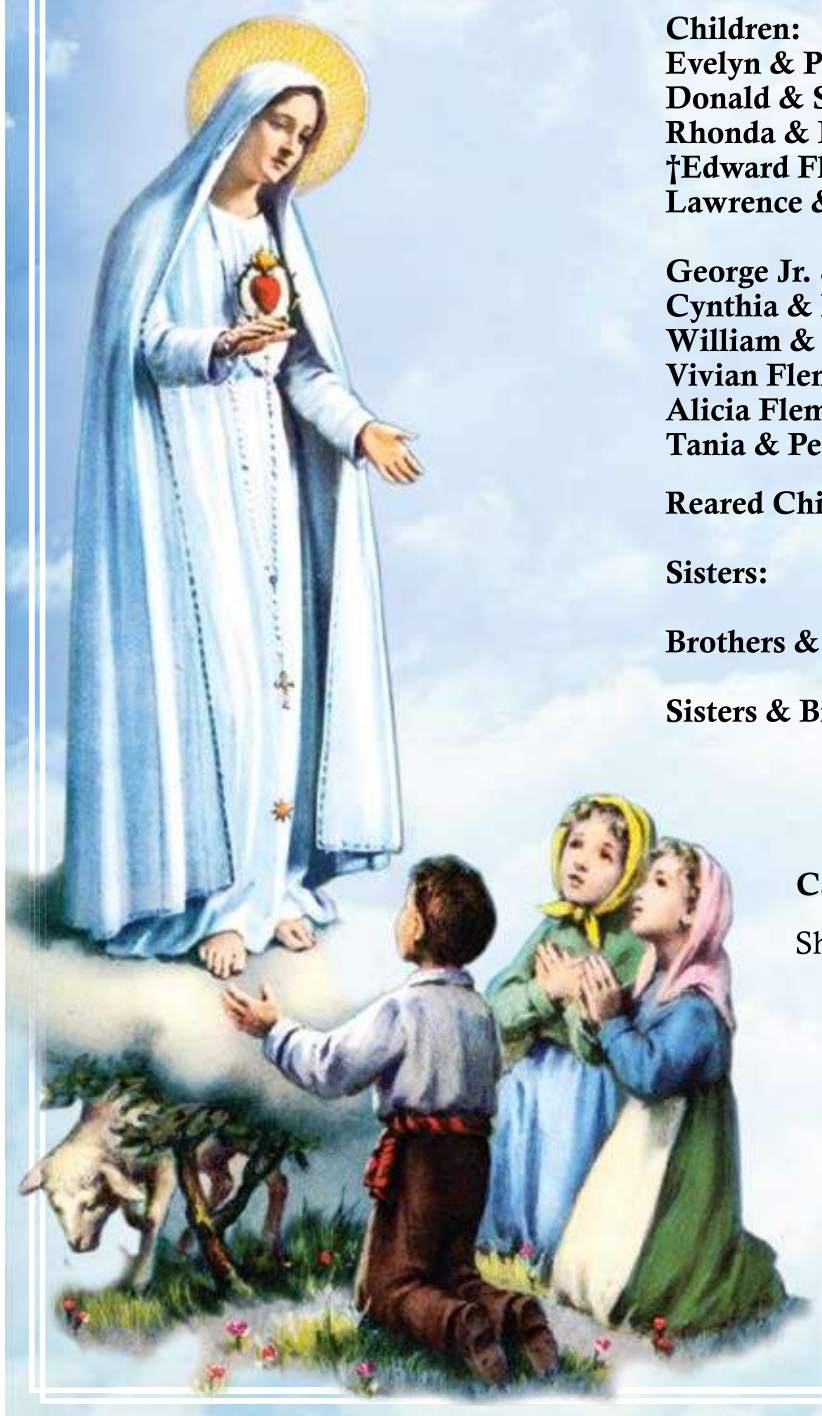
JUANITA SABLAN MENDIOLA FLEMING

(Juanitan Damoa)

Born: May 06, 1931 • Died: March 01, 2010, at the age of 78

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband:	†George Flores Fleming
Daughter:	†Linda Rose M. Fleming
Son:	†Edward M. Fleming
Grandchildren:	†Charles Henry Cruz Fleming
	†Maria Fleming Villagomez
Great-Grand:	†Angelina F. Nogis
Father:	†Joaquin Mendiola Mendiola (Joaquin Damoa)
Mother:	†Dolores Sablan Mendiola
Father In-Law:	†Henry Gordon Fleming
Mother In-Law:	†Consolacion Flores Fleming
Sisters & Brothers in-law:	†Rita S. Mendiola
	†Maria S. & Ramon Cabrera
	†Theodora M. & †Ramon Bermudes
Brothers & Sisters in-law:	†Juan S. Mendiola & †Rosalia V. Mendiola
	†Esteban S. Mendiola
Brothers in-law:	†Jesus Arriola
	†Froilan Camacho / †Miguel Magofna
Brothers in-law & Sisters in-law:	†Thomas & †Ursula U. Fleming
	†Albert & †Consolacion A. Fleming
	†Henry & †Josepha B. Fleming
	†Rodney Bordallo
Daughter In-Law:	†Herminia Cruz Fleming



Survived by:

Children:
Evelyn & Phillip David *(Linda & Gonzalo, Frederick, George & Wilma, Eric & Tania, Juanette & JJ)*
Donald & Susan DLG. Fleming *(Tina, Vanessa, Donald, George)*
Rhonda & Felix Nogis *(Jaimie & JayJay, Apollonia & Gerald, Natashia & Peter, Janine ,Nathan)*
†Edward Fleming *(James & Carol, Bethany, Sean, Kina,Bernadette)*
Lawrence & Mary Jane Dl. Fleming *(Audy John & April, Telma & Jack, Velma, Wilma & Champ, Dorsha & Carlos, Laurie Jane, Renita, Lawrence Jr., Henry)*
George Jr. & Florence R. Fleming *(Amanda & Mike, George III & Keolani, Ian)*
Cynthia & Mark Zachares *(Sarah & Cassandra)*
William & Evelyn C. Fleming *(Clay, Eileen, Connie, William Jr., Toby)*
Vivian Fleming & Jesse Manibusan *(Gloria Gean)*
Alicia Fleming *(Renaesha & Jonathan, Jose, Rita, Juanita)*
Tania & Peter John Mesa *(Elijah, Noah, Isaiah)*

Reared Children:	Rosemary C. Kendall
	Josepha A. Weilbacher
Sisters:	Estefania M. Arriola (Nia)
	Anunciacion Camacho Magofna (Asako)
Brothers & Sisters in-law:	Alfred & Rosalia Fleming (Tinian)
	Rudy Flores Fleming (Tinian)
Sisters & Brothers in-law:	Daisy Fleming Manglona (Tinian)
	Lydia & Eugene Black (Missouri)
	Leonora F. Bordallo (Guam)
	Martha M. Mendiola
	Isabel Mendiola
Caretakers:	Veronica Raymundo & Adela Campus

She will also be missed and remembered in the hearts of her 41 great grand children, god-children, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. and nightly rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On Tuesday, March 09, 2010, her remains will arrive at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 11:00am.

Mass for Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3:00 pm. Interment services will follow immediately after at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

THE FAMILY

Health & Fitness

Gene test claims to show what diet works best

Diet not working? Blame your genes. That's the pitch behind a new test that claims to show whether people will do better on a low-fat or a low-carb weight loss plan.

We're all hard-wired with DNA that controls how we burn and store calories from various foods, and the test claims to sort out this machinery. A study this week found that women on diets well-matched to their genes, as defined by the test, lost roughly five times more weight than those on mismatched diets.

ON THE NET

UC Davis nutrigenomics center: http://nutrigenomics.ucdavis.edu

"We were able to explain why some people were successful" and others were not, even though they ate the same way, said Mindy Dopler Nelson, a nutritional biologist at Stanford University who led the study but has no financial ties to the maker of the test.

Some scientists find this hard to swallow. It's another test being peddled without enough research to show it really works, they say.

"I'm afraid this may be another attempt to lure the public into purchasing genetic tests that provide little value for those struggling with their weight," said Raymond Rodriguez, director of the National Center of Excellence for Nutritional Genomics at the University of California, Davis.

The research shows "nothing that should move the American public out to get their genome tested," said Dr. Robert Eckel, a former American Heart Association president and cardiologist at the University of Colorado-Denver.

But it sure has appeal.

Gene testing originally was aimed at finding risk for things like cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer's disease. Lately, genes have been linked to things you might not suspect, such as stuttering or compulsive leg-jiggling.

The latest trend is to connect genes to lifestyle counseling, determining what type of diet or exercise is best. That's what the maker of the new diet test hopes to do.

The company, Waltham, Mass.-based Interleukin Genetics Inc., looked at studies on hundreds of genes and chose three genes that show a pattern for metabolizing fats and carbohydrates, said its chief scientific officer, Ken Korman.

The company then hired Stanford researchers to do a validation study of its $149 test, using people who took part in diet research that was published in 2007. That study tested four diets—Atkins (ultra-low-carb), the Zone (low-carb), Ornish (very low-fat) or a low-fat diet following the federal Food Pyramid.

About one-third of the original participants, 138 women, sent cheek swabs with their DNA to Interleukin, which tagged them as "low-carb appropriate" or low-fat appropriate.

Looking back at the original study's results, researchers saw that women whose diets matched their genetic makeup lost more than 13 pounds over a year compared to less than 3 pounds for women on mismatched diets, Nelson reported at a heart association conference this week.

Some scientists were unpersuaded. Sticking with a diet is more important than what diet you choose, as is not regaining weight, Eckel said.

"I have serious reservations with this study and studies like it," Rodriguez agreed. "The idea that genetic variants in these genes can predict the likelihood for weight loss in such a small population, particularly since the tendency for weight loss is probably more behavioral than genetic, is simply hard to believe."

However, one of the study participants, Jacqueline Gardner, 55, of Evergreen, Calif., does believe. She went from 200 pounds at the start of the study to 185, but was back to 200 pounds two years later.

"I now know why I gained it back," she said—the gene test showed she does not metabolize carbohydrates well. More recently, she has been on a high-protein diet and weighs 180.

"I wish I had had a DNA test 10 years ago," she said.

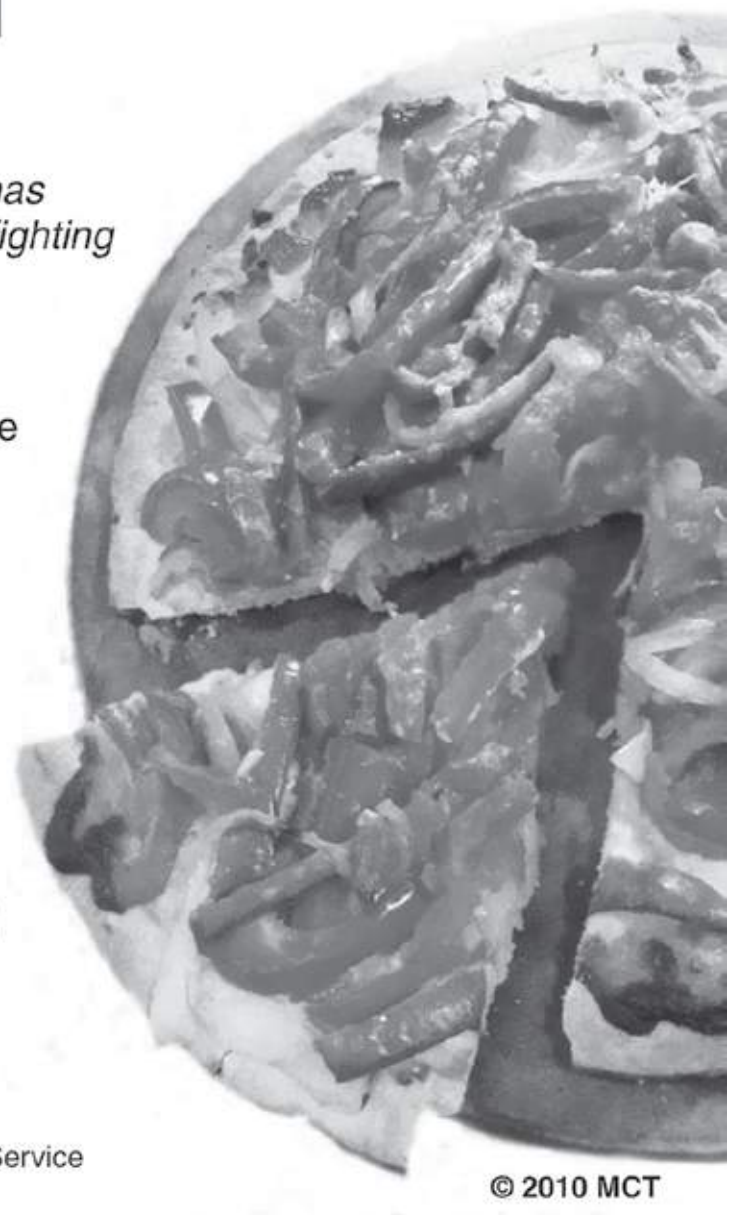
Healthy Living

A better slice

A group of pizza-loving chemists has discovered how to boost disease-fighting antioxidants in a slice.

The recipe

- **Instead of all-purpose flour,** use whole wheat flour, which is higher in antioxidants – substances that counteract the damaging effects of oxidation in our bodies
- **Let the dough rise** for about 18 hours in the refrigerator, in a pan loosely covered with plastic wrap; the longer rising time can double the dough's antioxidants
- **Bake the pizza** at 500 F (260 C) for 6-8 minutes; antioxidants increased by 82 percent when baked at a higher temperature



Source: University of Maryland; MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

© 2010 MCT

In Loving Memory of

†William "Bill" Sablan Pangelinan

We, the family would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our beloved unto eternal life.

Mass of Intention is celebrated every evening at San Antonio Church at 6:00 PM through March 11, 2010. On the final day, please join us for dinner at the San Antonio Parish Social Hall immediately after the mass.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
The Family

Appetite may be partly linked to germs in the gut

WASHINGTON (AP)— Germs in the gut may help drive appetite, says new research into the link between obesity and bacteria.

Previous studies have shown that overweight people and normal-weight people harbor different types and amounts of microbes that naturally live in the intestine. To determine why, scientists are peering into mice.

Emory University researchers noticed that mice with an altered immune system were fatter than regular mice, and had a collection of disorders—high blood pressure, and cholesterol and insulin problems—called metabolic syndrome, often a precursor of heart disease and diabetes.

ON THE NET

Science: http://www.sciencemag.org/

Everyone is born with a sterile digestive tract that within days is flooded with bacteria from first foods and the environment. Altered immunity in these mice meant somewhat different bacteria grew in their intestines than in normal rodents—driving bigger appetites, metabolic syndrome and a low-grade inflammation believed key to obesity's illnesses, Emory associate pathology professor Andrew Gewirtz reported Thursday in the journal Science.

To prove it, Gewirtz transferred bacteria from the fat mice directly into the germ-free intestines of normal newborn mice—and those mice began eating more and developed inflammation and insulin problems.

Restrict access to food and the altered mice don't gain weight, but still experienced the other symptoms, he noted.

"People are getting obese because they're eating more, but it suggests the reason they're eating more may not simply be that calories are cheap and available," Gewirtz said. "The reason they're eating more may be an increased appetite resulting from changes in intestinal bacteria."

His next step is to study how gut bacteria changes in people having weight-loss surgery.

Life & Style

‘Transformers,’ Bullock make Razzies worst list

AP

In this film publicity image released by 20th Century Fox, Thomas Haden Church, left, Sandra Bullock, center, and Bradley Cooper are shown in a scene from “All About Steve.”

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen” was picked as last year’s worst picture at Saturday’s Razzies, and Sandra Bullock won worst actress for “All About Steve”—on the eve of her expected Academy Awards triumph for another film.

Voters at the Razzies, which poke fun at the Oscars by giving out prizes for Hollywood’s critical misfires, chose Bullock for her romantic comedy flop. “All About Steve” came and quickly vanished at theaters in between her 2009 hits, “The Proposal” and “The Blind Side,” the latter expected to win Bullock the best-actress Oscar on Sunday.

If Bullock takes best-actress for “The Blind Side,” she will be the first person ever to win an Oscar and a Razzie over the same weekend.

“She’s in the unprecedented position, Saturday she’s the worst, and the very next night, she’s back on her feet, and she’s the best,” said Razzies founder John Wilson. “We certainly don’t wish her ill at that other awards show.”

Throughout awards season, Bullock has been good-natured about it, joking about the Razzies attention she has gotten along with the Oscar esteem.

Bullock and “All About Steve” co-star Bradley Cooper also shared the Razzie for worst screen couple.

The “Transformers” sequel won two other Razzies, worst director for Michael Bay and worst screenplay for Ehren Kruger, Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman.

Bay and his team probably will not lose any asleep over it, though. Though reviled by critics, “Transformers” took in $402.1 million domestically, No. 2 on the 2009 box-office chart behind “Avatar.”

The worst-actor Razzie went to siblings Kevin, Joe and Nick Jonas for “Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience.”

The Jonas’ pal Miley Cyrus, star of “Hannah Montana: The Movie,” lost the worst-actress category to Bullock. But her dad, Billy Ray Cyrus, was named worst supporting actor for the big-screen “Hannah Montana.”

Sienna Miller received the worst supporting-actress Razzie for the action tale “G.I. Joe.”

Will Ferrell’s action comedy flop “Land of the Lost” had come in tied with “Transformers” for the Razzies lead with seven nominations, but it was nearly shut out in every category.

Boggy Creek’ filmmaker Pierce dies in Tenn. at 71

DOVER, Tenn. (AP)—Charles B. Pierce, an independent filmmaker whose inexpensively made documentary-style drama “The Legend of Boggy Creek” influenced the hit film “The Blair Witch Project” decades later, has died at age 71.

Pierce, who grew up in Arkansas and made his films mostly in that state, died Friday at a Dover nursing home, according to Wayne Anglin of Anglin Funeral Home at Dover. A cause of death could not be obtained.

Pierce was born in Hammond, Ind., but moved to southwest Arkansas with his family as a child, according to a daughter, Amanda “Amy” Squitiero. He grew up in Hampton, Ark., and as an adult lived in nearby Texarkana, where he ran an advertising agency. But it was his 1972 low-budget movie that gained him fame.

“He really did change the face of filmmaking,” Arkansas Film Commissioner Christopher Crane told the Texarkana Gazette. “With his model, many filmmakers became successful with the drive-in creature feature, so to speak.”

The director of the 1999 box-office docudrama “The Blair Witch Project,” Daniel Myrick, cited Pierce’s film as an influence in an interview with the Tulsa World.

“We just wanted to make a movie that tapped into the primal fear generated by the factor -fiction format, like ‘Legend of Boggy Creek,’” he told the newspaper in 1999. “That was one of my favorites; it freaked me out when I was a little kid. I was beside myself with fear for weeks after seeing that thing.”

“Boggy Creek” was based on a local legend of a Sasquatch-like creature in Fouke, a town southwest of Texarkana, where retailers still capitalize on the fame of what was called the Fouke Monster.

Squitiero said her father’s autobiographical notes indicate “Legend of Boggy Creek” was made for $160,000 but ultimately made $25 million after it became a cult hit.

Depp, Burton lift ` Alice’ to $41M opening day

AP

In this film publicity image released by Disney, Johnny Depp, left, Mia Wasikowska, center, and Anne Hathaway are shown in a scene from the film “Alice in Wonderland.”

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Audiences are mad as hatters about Johnny Depp and Tim Burton’s “Alice in Wonderland,” helping it earn a whopping $41 million in its first day.

After its big start Friday, the Disney release could be on track for a $100 million weekend. Box-office tracker Hollywood.com says that would be a record for films opening in March.

The current best March debut is $70.9 million for “300” in 2007.

Director Burton reteamed with frequent collaborator Depp, who plays the Mad Hatter in their new take on Lewis Carroll’s classic. The film also features Burton’s romantic partner, Helena Bonham Carter, along with Anne Hathaway, Crispin Glover and Mia Wasikowska as Alice.

In Loving Memory

FRANCISCO CASTRO ADA

September 26, 1934 - March 2, 2010

Son of Francisco Alig Ada and Luciana Castro Ada

Survived by
His wife Ines Seman Ada
Their children and spouses:
Maria Lourdes Ada (Steven and Kimberly)
Eloise and John Furey (Jennifer and Barrie, Elizabeth)
Lillian and Edward Tenorio (Christopher and Andre)
Estrellita Ada (Nicole, Noelle and Tatiana)
Francisco and Blumel Ada (Jesse, Francisco IV, Nicholas and Joseph)
Norma Ada
Luciana and Michael Schubert (Taylor and Toriana)

His sisters Luisa Ada Steiner and Ana Ada Magofna

His sisters-in-law Josepha B. Ada, Emiliana S. Ada, and Martina A. Ada and his nieces and nephews.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6 am and nightly Rosary is being said at 7 pm at Kristo Rai Church, except Rosary on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will be at 7:30 pm, and on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 6 pm.

On March 10, 2010, his remains will arrive at the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 10 am. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 am.

Thank you and Si Yuus Maase.

Ines S. Ada and Family

Predictability out of the picture at Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Too predictable. That's the persistent complaint about the Academy Awards, whose drama generally is sapped by a glut of earlier award shows that spell out what films will win at the Oscars before the show starts.

Not this time—at least for Sunday's top prize, and maybe the weekend's threatening weather.

With the best-picture lineup expanded to 10 films instead of the usual five, the science-fiction spectacle and box-office behemoth "Avatar" is head-to-head with the low-budgeted, low-grossing Iraq War story "The Hurt Locker." Each has nine nominations.

Adding to the suspense is how this year's use of preferential voting for best picture—where voters rank the 10 nominees in order of preference—may affect the category's outcome.

The acting prizes look as predictable as ever, with Oscars expected to go to Sandra Bullock as best actress for "The Blind Side," Jeff Bridges as best actor for "Crazy Heart," Mo'Nique as supporting actress for "Precious" and Christoph Waltz as supporting actor for "Inglourious Basterds."

"Avatar" won best drama at the Golden Globes, traditionally a good gauge for how the Oscars might play out. But the Globes were nearly two months ago, the first major ceremony in the long buildup to the Oscars. A lot has happened since.

"The Hurt Locker" dominated honors from Hollywood trade groups, including guilds representing directors, writers and producers. It also won best-picture and five other prizes at the British Academy Film Awards.

The films bring some behind-the-scenes drama. "Avatar" director James Cameron and "The Hurt Locker" director Kathryn Bigelow were married from 1989-91, making this the first time ex-spouses have competed for the directing Oscar.

Bigelow would be the first woman ever to win best director, a prize Cameron earned with 1997's "Titanic."

AP

Oscar statues stand ready to great those who enter the red carpet outside the Kodak Theatre as preparations continue for the 82nd Academy Awards in Los Angeles, Ca., on Saturday, March 6, 2010.

And one of Bigelow's fellow producers on "The Hurt Locker," Nicolas Chartier, has been barred from attending the Oscars after he ran afoul of the awards rules by sending e-mails to academy voters urging them to support his film over "Avatar."

Overseers at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences took some heat after doubling the field to 10 films last summer. Many actors, filmmakers and others in Hollywood wondered if the Oscars had lowered their standards by letting so many films into the best-picture race.

But the move has brought a different energy to the show, both for producers with films in the running and TV viewers who have gradually lost interest in the Oscars. The ceremony's TV ratings sank to an all-time low two years ago, then bounced back a bit last year.

The top awards were utterly predictable both years, "No Country for Old Men" dominating two years ago and "Slumdog Millionaire" winning last time.

Oscar organizers say they sense greater interest in the awards all-around, from the A-list lineup that will strut the red carpet outside Hollywood's Kodak Theatre to the stargazers watching on TV at home.

"People seem to be talking about the movies. The idea that we've gone to 10 is something that's been a little controversial to some people, even though we've done it before," said Tom Sherak, academy president. The Oscars often had 10 or more best-picture nominees until 1943.

"It's created a conversation about the movies, and I don't think there's a clear-cut winner. We want it to be fun to watch, for people to have an interest in seeing what's going to happen with these 10 movies," Sherak said.

Also in the running for best picture: the football drama "The Blind Side," the sci-fi thriller "District 9," the British teen tale "An Education," the World War II saga "Inglourious Basterds," the Harlem story "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire," the Jewish domestic chronicle "A Serious Man," the animated adventure "Up" and the recession-era yarn "Up in the Air."

Along with "The Hurt Locker," which took in just $12.6 million domestically, competitors such as "An Education" and "A Serious Man" have found relatively small audiences.

The lineup is balanced with huge hits, led by "Avatar," the biggest modern blockbuster with $700 million domestically and $2.6 billion worldwide. "Up" and "The Blind Side" both topped $200 million domestically, while "Inglourious Basterds" and "District 9" were $100 million hits.

Oscar TV ratings tend to rise in years when big hits are among the front-runners. The show had its biggest audience ever when Cameron's colossal hit "Titanic" won best-picture 12 years ago.

Academy organizers also aim to liven up the show, continuing a trend they began last year by hiring song-and-dance man Hugh Jackman as host, rather than a traditional comedian.

Sunday's show features past host Steve Martin paired with Alec Baldwin, the first time since 1987 that the Oscars have had more than one emcee.

Lifetime-achievement Oscars have been moved to a separate event to speed up the pace of the show.

Oscar producers Adam Shankman and Bill Mechanic also are mixing up the cast of awards presenters with young talent such as Miley Cyrus and "Twilight" co-stars Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner and veterans such as Sean Penn, Barbra Streisand and Samuel L. Jackson.

"New Hollywood and classic Hollywood. Love it," Shankman said.

"You'll see that quite a bit," Mechanic said. "Not paired together, but you'll see a respect for the traditions of Hollywood and a welcoming of new Hollywood."

And a scramble by Oscar bosses come Monday to see how the ratings went.

Stars dressed down, shining bright at rehearsals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Robert Downey, Jr. Charlize Theron. Kathy Bates. John Travolta. Tina Fey. Matt Damon. Jake Gyllenhaal. Kate Winslet. Penelope Cruz. Tom Hanks. Jennifer Lopez. Robin Williams. Zoe Saldana. Sarah Jessica Parker.

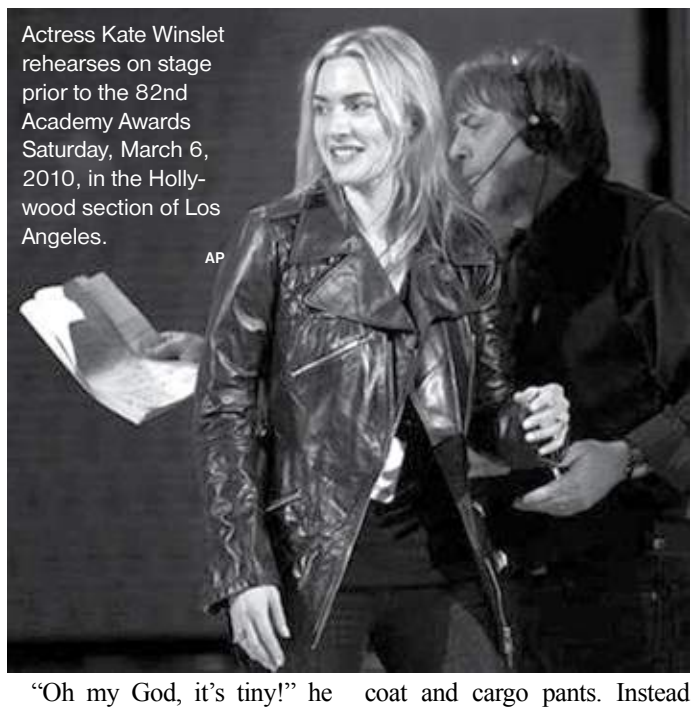
There were so many stars inside the Kodak Theatre Saturday, it looked like a casual version of Oscar night.

Instead of the glamorous gowns and tuxedoes they'll wear for Sunday's big show, the stars were relaxed in jeans and sneakers. And instead of being live on the air in front of millions, they performed behind closed doors for a small crowd of show workers.

Damon wore a hooded sweat shirt and knit cap as he rehearsed, pausing from time to time to marvel at the show's stunning set.

Saldana wore skinny jeans and a sleeveless white blouse with towering purple platforms, and bobbed her head to the music playing as she practiced her presentation.

Travolta was in jeans and a ballcap, his credential tucked into his back pocket.



Actress Kate Winslet rehearses on stage prior to the 82nd Academy Awards Saturday, March 6, 2010, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

AP

"Oh my God, it's tiny!" he said when he saw the size of the print on the teleprompter he was meant to read. Bates, in a paisley shawl and flats, had the same issue and producers bumped up the font size.

Downey chewed gum and playfully struck a pose during his brief rehearsal. Lopez looked glamorous in a super-short red minidress and tall spiked heels.

A bearded, bespectacled Williams came out in a black rain-coat and cargo pants. Instead of opening the prop envelope, he held it against his forehead Johnny Carson-style and intuitively announced the winner.

"It's Sarah Palin, for 'I'm Still Here,'" Williams quipped, and the crowd of show workers roared.

Cruz was perfectly put together in a shiny black coat and matching high heels. Winslet, too, was radiant in a simple black jacket and jeans. Parker maintained her trademark style with a hot pink scarf around her neck and bright blue Louboutins on her feet.

A makeup-free Theron toted a coffee cup to her rehearsal. Wearing jeans and heels, her hair in a ponytail, she practiced her lines—keeping her dress in mind.

She chatted with a producer about camera angles, then said, "Well, I'm not wearing underwear."

"Too much information," a director's voice boomed over the loudspeaker.

The Oscar-winner laughed. "I didn't realize everyone could hear me," she said, before thanking the crew and waving goodbye.

The always affable Hanks, a two-time Oscar winner and Academy Awards regular, came to rehearsal in a blazer and jeans. His wife, Rita Wilson, sat on the side of the stage and checked her BlackBerry as he quickly ran through his lines.

On his way out, he greeted the producers and his academy colleagues.

"See you tomorrow," he said. "And good luck."

Glover: Help Ohio plant, shun Hugo Boss at Oscars

CLEVELAND (AP)—Actor and activist Danny Glover is calling on Academy Awards nominees and others in the film industry to not wear Hugo Boss suits at Sunday's awards ceremony.

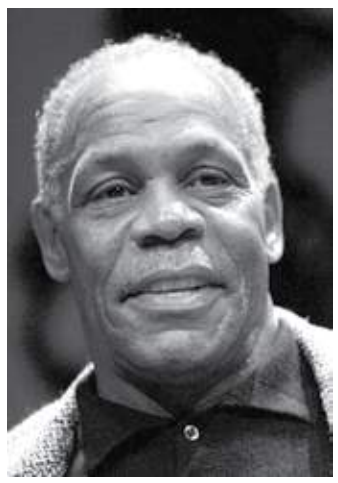
The "Lethal Weapon" star, in collaboration with the Workers United labor union, made the request in a letter on behalf of 375 Cleveland-area factory workers who'll lose their jobs if the German company closes the plant at the end of next month as planned.

The Feb. 26 letter asks Hollywood to "take a small stand for American workers." It asks Oscars attendees to wear on their lapels a pin reading, "Keep the Hugo Boss Plant Open."

Workers United, which represents most of the plant's employees, said the plant is profitable and the company is shutting it because it can make clothing more cheaply in Europe. The clothing company, famed for its stylish fashion, has a facility in Turkey and contract workers in Romania and Bulgaria.

The union, affiliated with the Service Employees International Union, is asking fans to join Glover by signing an online petition urging Hollywood to shun Hugo Boss at the Oscars.

Hugo Boss AG, based in Metzingen, Germany, said the plant is under capacity and isn't globally competitive. It makes two lines of men's suits there.



AP

In this Jan. 9, 2008 file photo, Actor Danny Glover takes part in a panel discussion at Emerson College in Boston.

During union negotiations last year, the company told workers it wanted to lower wages from $13 an hour to $8.30, Ohio union director Dallas Sells said.

In a letter to workers in December, Hugo Boss chief operating officer Andreas Stockert said that the company had negotiated in good faith with the union and that it had a responsibility to shareholders.

It announced the closing in December, stunning employees, most of whom are at the $13-an-hour pay level.

Beyond Cleveland, Hugo Boss employs some 900 people in the U.S. in its stores and showrooms and in administrative positions.

Oscar party crash: No deal in Cablevision and ABC feud

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC's parent company switched off its signal to Cablevision's 3.1 million customers in New York at midnight Saturday in a dispute over payments that escalated just hours before the start of the Academy Awards.

In dueling statements dispatched early Sunday, the two companies blamed each other for the stalemate in negotiations over fees.

"Cablevision has once again betrayed its subscribers," said Charissa Gilmore, a spokeswoman for the Walt Disney Co. and ABC Television Group, in a statement. "Cablevision pocketed almost $8 billion last year, and now customers aren't getting what they pay for ... again."

Cablevision Systems Corp. said the stall in negotiations should be blamed on Disney CEO Bob Iger. "It is now painfully clear to millions of New York area households that Disney CEO Bob Iger will hold his own ABC viewers hostage in order to extract $40 million in new fees from Cablevision," said Charles Schueler, a Cablevision executive vice president, in a statement.

The signal can still be pulled from the air for free with an antenna and a new TV or digital converter box.

Cablevision has argued that Disney is seeking an additional $40 million a year in new fees, even though the company pays more than $200 million a year to Disney.

Disney counters by arguing that Cablevision charges customers $18 per month for basic broadcast signals but does not pass on any payment for ABC to Disney.

The dispute is similar to a standoff at the end of last year between News Corp. and Time Warner Cable over how much Fox television station signals were worth. That tussle, which threatened the college football bowl season and new episodes of "The Simpsons," was resolved without a signal interruption.

Cablevision also feuded with Scripps Networks Interactive Inc. in a January dispute that temporarily forced the Food Network and HGTV off the service. Neither side provided terms of an agreement that restored the channels after three weeks.

Disney and Cablevision have been airing dueling advertisements about the ongoing dispute for the past week. Also, lawmakers in Washington have chimed in, suggesting the Federal Communications Commission step in.

The company's previous contract with Cablevision expired more than two years ago, but it was extended month by month as talks continued.

Under previous arrangements, Disney was paid for cable channels such as ESPN and Disney Channel, but gave its ABC broadcast signal away for free, a situation that most broadcasters are now trying to change.

"We can no longer sit back and allow Cablevision to use our shows for free while they continue to charge their customers for them," WABC-TV president and general manager Rebecca Campbell said in a statement.

AP

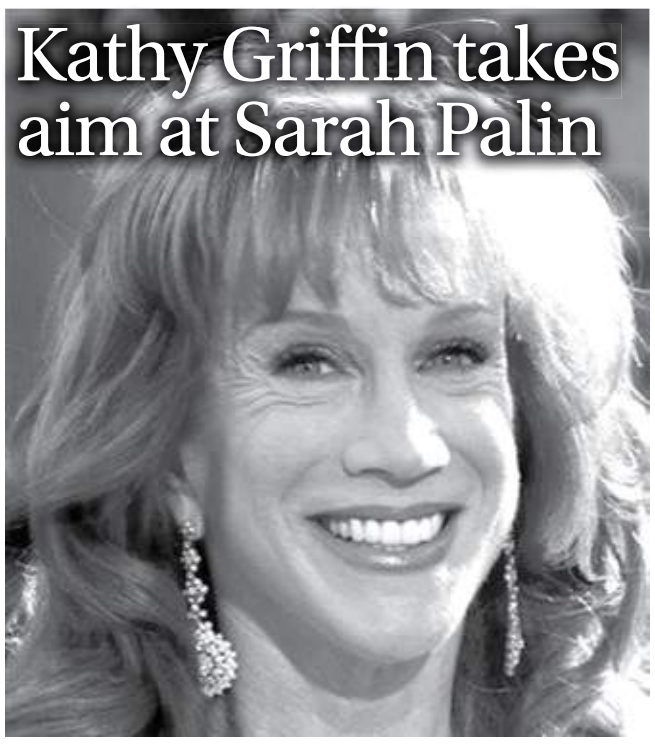
In this Jan. 11, 2006 file photo, James Dolan, Cablevision President and Chief Executive Officer and Madison Square Garden Chairman, attends a news conference in New York.

Schueler suggested that disgruntled viewers should blame Disney's top executive if the station goes dark.

"There is one man who is going to decide whether New York gets to see the Oscars, and that's Disney President and CEO Bob Iger," he said in a statement late Friday. "We call on Bob Iger to stop holding his own viewers hostage, end his threats to pull the plug on ABC at midnight and instead work with us to reach a fair agreement."

WABC-TV is the most watched TV station in the country, said Disney, which is based in Burbank, Calif.

Kathy Griffin takes aim at Sarah Palin



AP

In this Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009 file photo, Kathy Griffin arrives at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Comedian Kathy Griffin has brought her "Life on the D-List" show to Sarah Palin's home state, skewering the former Alaska governor at a raucous show in Anchorage.

Griffin was escorted on stage on Friday by Playgirl model Levi Johnston, who fathered a child with Palin's oldest daughter and is involved in a child support battle with Bristol Palin.

Griffin said she spent a day ice fishing with Johnston in Wasilla, and was surprised when 19-year-old Levi's friend brought along a camera—but only to photograph the fish they caught.

Griffin helped Johnston's celebrity star to rise, taking the aspiring actor to an awards show last year as her date. While in Wasilla, Griffin said she also went to Palin's home. There she left a note, inviting Palin to Friday's performance.

She asked the crowd to look around and see if anyone was doing a pageant wave.

Griffin said John McCain picked Palin to be his running mate on the Republican ticket after "talking to her for 10 minutes."

Of Palin's monologue this week on "The Tonight Show," Griffin only promised the audience she would never try to be a mayor.

Griffin also claimed Palin is a "gift that keeps on giving."

Griffin welcomed news that Palin is trying to shop a reality show or docudrama about Alaska. She called that a "gift from God."

Griffin is in Anchorage to coincide with Saturday's start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. She was to have attended several events leading up to the race, including the musher's banquet and made many jokes about the annual Trappers and Miners Ball.

Man charged with stalking TV personality Dr. Drew

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—A Los Angeles man accused of stalking Dr. Drew Pinsky and threatening the reality television and radio personality and his family has pleaded not guilty to six felony counts.

Prosecutors say 33-year-old Charles William Pearson entered his not guilty pleas Friday in Pasadena Superior Court.

Pearson is accused of stalking the star of the TV show "Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew" and radio program "Loveline" beginning last November.

He has also been charged with making criminal threats online against the doctor and four of his family members in February.

Pasadena police say he also showed up at a Los Angeles radio station recently and made accusations about the doctor.

Pearson's bail has been increased to $400,000 from $150,000 at the prosecution's request.

AP

In this Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010 photo, Dr. Drew Pinksy arrives at the opening night of The Pee-Wee Herman Show in Los Angeles, Calif.

Man stopped keeping house the minute he got married

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: When I first met my husband of two years, "Phil," he owned his own home, kept it spotless and his yard neat, prepared his own meals and did his laundry. Those qualities made him stand out from the many spoiled "Mama's boys" I had dated in the past.

Now that we're married it's like he has amnesia. He has "forgotten" how to operate the washing machine, scrub a toilet or wash a dish. He hasn't cleaned the bathroom once since our wedding, washes only one load of laundry a week (his own work uniforms) and performs other domestic tasks only if I ask repeatedly. I don't enjoy nagging him.

I teach school and attend graduate school at night, so I'm just as exhausted at the end of the day as he is, even though his labor is more physical. I know this problem is nothing new, but I am hoping you can offer some insight or advice. Why do so many men feel entitled to flop on the couch every night and expect us women to trudge through the housework into the wee hours?

NOT THE MAID IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR NOT THE MAID: Probably because that's what they saw their mothers do, and whether it's conscious or not, they consider housework to be "women's work." However, a lot has changed over the last generation, and your mother-in-law deserves credit for equipping her son to be independent after he left her nest.

Because so many couples are both employed today, many husbands and wives share housekeeping responsibilities. And because you yourself are working the equivalent of two jobs, that's what you and your husband should be doing. Of course, that won't happen until and unless you're willing to put your foot down and impress upon him that you married him to be his partner -- not his maid -- and that if he wants a happy marriage, he's going to have to pull his share of the load.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm worried about my 14-year-old granddaughter. She's a good soccer player and frequently "heads" the soccer ball. I think this could be harmful to her brain.

I have spoken to two coaches about it; they say I shouldn't worry. But I saw on the Internet that chronic traumatic brain injury has occurred in soccer and football players. What do you think? Should I pursue this concern?

GRANDMA AND NURSE IN HOUSTON

DEAR GRANDMA: What do your granddaughter's parents have to say about this? Surely, she is not participating in a team sport without their written permission. That said, because everything one reads on the Internet isn't necessarily accurate, if you wish to pursue this, I'd recommend you start by talking to a licensed medical professional.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been infatuated with a co-worker for more than a year. The problem is, he knows it and is reluctant to become more involved because we work together. We flirt constantly. We're good friends and talk almost daily about things that go way beyond work.

Everyone here knows we have a thing for each other. How do I cross over without risking our friendship? We're both single and unattached.

INFATUATED IN DOWNEY, CALIF.

DEAR INFATUATED: More than a few romances have started in the workplace, if there is no company policy forbidding fraternization, so why not ask him to join you for dinner one evening? I can't see how that would be a risk to your friendship. His response will tell you whether or not he's just an office flirt who enjoys the sexual tension and prefers to leave things as they are.

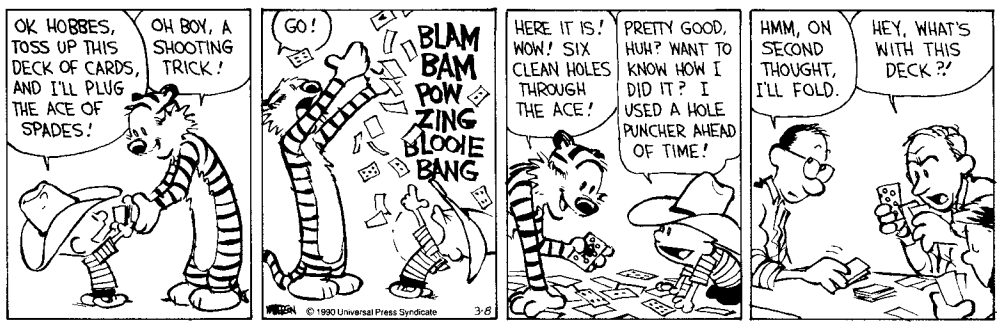
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

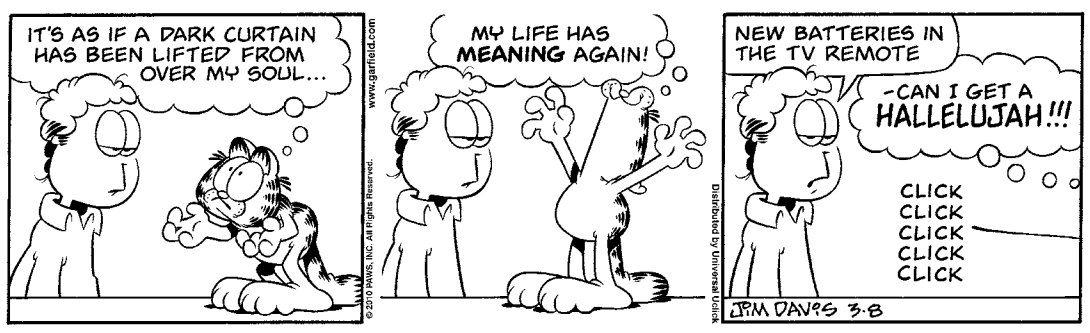
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OK HOBBES, TOSS UP THIS DECK OF CARDS, AND I'LL PLUG THE ACE OF SPADES!
OH BOY, A SHOOTING TRICK!
GO!
BLAM BAM POW ZING BLOOIE BANG
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
3-8
HERE IT IS! WOW! SIX CLEAN HOLES THROUGH THE ACE!
PRETTY GOOD, HUH? WANT TO KNOW HOW I DID IT? I USED A HOLE PUNCHER AHEAD OF TIME!
HMM, ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'LL FOLD.
HEY, WHAT'S WITH THIS DECK?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


IT'S AS IF A DARK CURTAIN HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM OVER MY SOUL...
www.garfield.com
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
MY LIFE HAS MEANING AGAIN!
NEW BATTERIES IN THE TV REMOTE
-CAN I GET A HALLELUJAH!!!
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
Distributed by Universal Uclick
JIM DAVIS 3-8

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I HATE GOING TO THESE VETERINARIAN APPOINTMENTS WITH YOU.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
3-8-10
THESE WAITING ROOM MAGAZINES ARE ALL FOR DOGS! "NEW YORKIE", "BETTER KENNELS AND GARDENS"...
NEW YORKIE
I LOVE ROLLING ON THE GARBAGE-SCENTED INSERT CARDS!
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

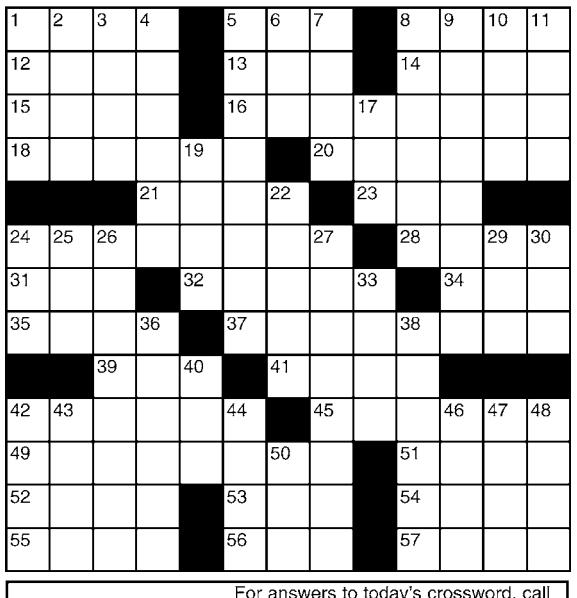
ACROSS
1 Refuse abruptly
5 Brooch
8 Actress Sorvino
12 Hodge-podge
13 Salt Lake tribe member
14 Blackbirds
15 Dregs
16 AAA vehicle
18 Shoe style
20 Ponders
21 String instrument
23 Conclusion
24 Rope contest
28 Facility
31 Exist
32 Georgia of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"
34 Dead heat
35 Hostels
37 Ice cream parlor worker
39 Conger, for one
41 — gin fizz
42 Painter or sculptor
45 Sent forth
49 Important thoroughfare
51 Salver
52 Formerly
53 "This tastes awful!"
54 Being, to Brutus
55 Smooch
56 Chow down
57 "Phooey!"

DOWN
1 Thin neckwear
2 Rodriguez or Trebek
3 Willing, old-style
4 Balkan land
5 Insults
6 Judge Lance
7 Mr. Gingrich
8 Leatherneck
9 Flood
10 "Casablanca" role
11 Inquires
17 Definite article
19 Abundant
22 Former capital of Nigeria
24 Mai — (cocktail)
25 Coffee shop vessel
26 Watson and Crick's field
27 "Stop" signal
29 Ma'am's counterpart
30 "A mouse!"
33 Asian nation
36 Nets
38 Royal clown
40 Hallucinogen letters
42 Out of control
43 Hindu princess
44 Verifiable
46 — Major
47 Into the sunrise
48 Coloring agents
50 — Khan

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	S	T	A	S	H	■	O	T	I	O	S	E
B	O	R	N	E	O	■	D	E	D	U	C	E
U	S	E	N	E	T	■	O	N	S	T	A	R
T	O	F	U	■	W	A	R	S	■	F	R	O
■	■	■	M	A	A	M	■	E	G	O	■	■
I	D	A	■	S	T	A	B	■	E	X	A	M
M	O	M	M	I	E	D	E	A	R	E	S	T
P	E	E	P	■	R	E	A	L	■	S	P	A
■	■	R	H	O	■	U	N	I	T	■	■	■
U	R	I	■	R	A	S	P	■	I	R	A	Q
S	O	C	I	A	L	■	O	H	M	A	G	E
P	L	A	T	T	E	■	L	E	E	R	E	D
S	E	N	S	E	S	■	E	R	R	E	D	■

Saturday's answer 3-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bob Moffatt, 26; Clint Moffatt, 26; Dave Moffatt, 26; James Van Der Beek, 33

Happy Birthday: You will be prone to overreacting, overspending and overdoing. If you can tame your urge to take on too much, this can be a year full of opportunities. You will have plenty of ideas to share with friends, co-workers and family and, if you are willing to listen to reason, some of your ideas will bring you top rewards. Being and doing your best will lead others to join your team. Your numbers are 2, 5, 11, 22, 31, 33, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep an open mind and share opinions with people from different walks of life. Travel will help you realize what you want to do in the future. Uncertainty will lead to inconsistency and must be kept to a minimum. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep your eyes wide open and do what you can to help others. Your gestures of friendliness will pay off. An open-ended opportunity will lead to knowledge that will help you move forward with a plan you've had for a long time. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Not everyone will be trustworthy. Don't be fooled by insincere gestures of friendliness. Don't lend or borrow with someone you consider to be a friend. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do what you say and you will accomplish and make a good impression. Don't fear being a little different; in the end, it will set you apart from the competition. Focus on advancement. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't jump too quickly or you will make a poor choice. Take your time, especially when it involves money or a contract. Romance is in the stars if you stick to socializing instead of trying to do business. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Opportunities to make some alterations are apparent but don't trade one set of problems for another. Meddling in someone else's life will come back to bite you. Don't take part in something you know is wrong. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Emotional conversations will be upsetting if you take what's said too seriously. Spending too much time with someone you work with may lead to trouble, especially if you share some of your personal thoughts or secrets. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your creative, intuitive know-how will surprise everyone, including yourself. You will open up avenues that were closed to you in the past. Network as much as you can and you will meet someone with good connections and positive ideas. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll have a hard time getting away with anything, so keep things as close to the truth as possible. Don't exaggerate or make impossible promises. Focus on the one you love and how you can make improvements to your home, lifestyle and relationship. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone from your past will offer to help you with an old idea but, before you dump your responsibility on someone else, realize the job will not be done to your satisfaction or specifications. A partnership will need some new rules if it's going to be workable. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Extend a helping hand but do so with sincerity. If you are expecting something in return, you will be disappointed. You cannot push others to do things your way. Uncertainty regarding money, a settlement or contract will cause anxiety. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let emotional situations lead to overreacting, overdoing or overindulging. You will invite criticism and partnership problems if you are difficult to deal with. Contain your feelings; acting prematurely could lead to a ruined reputation or relationship. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a dreamer. You are passionate, expressive and energetic and aren't afraid to show your emotions.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						3		
		6	3	9	1		4	
	7				2			9
	5			3		1	2	
	2		1		7		9	
	9	8		2			6	
2			9				1	
	1		8	5	6	4		
		4						

Difficulty Level ★ 3/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	5	4	2	3	7	1	9
2	4	7	1	9	6	8	5	3
3	1	9	7	5	8	2	6	4
4	5	1	3	6	7	9	8	2
6	8	3	9	4	2	5	7	1
9	7	2	5	8	1	3	4	6
1	3	4	2	7	5	6	9	8
5	2	8	6	1	9	4	3	7
7	9	6	8	3	4	1	2	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/06

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WHAT'S LOU DOBB'S NEW CAREER? **Solution: 8 letters**

O	A	I	D	Y	L	N	E	K	O	P	S	T	U	O
P	P	L	A	N	E	T	A	R	Y	R	A	L	I	H
O	T	T	S	S	L	I	N	O	S	A	J	D	O	I
T	N	W	I	H	T	U	R	N	E	R	A	R	S	H
I	E	C	B	O	O	K	O	T	N	R	S	S	E	E
N	D	(M)	E	W	N	I	S	R	O	E	U	A	E	L
G	N	(R)	D	A	T	A	E	T	I	E	D	R	W	Y
N	O	(A)	R	C	C	T	A	N	S	L	F	R	H	T
I	P	(F)	E	D	R	T	A	U	I	E	I	O	E	S
K	S	L	A	O	N	R	S	N	V	T	S	H	T	N
N	E	O	P	E	E	S	E	I	E	T	C	A	A	M
A	R	E	M	T	E	S	L	R	L	S	A	D	N	U
B	R	M	E	X	A	R	U	G	E	S	L	I	E	L
G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T	E	X	A	S	O
C	C	A	N	D	I	D	A	T	E	C	N	A	H	C

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 3/8

Banking, Book, Broadcast, Candidate, Chance, Columns, Commentator, Correspondent, Debi, Elections, Farm, Fiscal, Frank, Free, Government, Headlines, Hilary, Horse, Host, Idaho, Issues, Jason, Live, Lydia, News, Option, Outspoken, Planetary, Radio, Reporter, Segura, Senate, Show, Style, Sussex, Television, Texas, Turner, Veteran, Writer

Last Saturday's Answer: New Jersey

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 or $8 send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Uclick plus $3 postage for the first book order. $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

Limited time offer for 4 GB flash drive for only $9.99 at Sprockets & Rockets pls call 234 1425

WHATZIT Solution:
A thorn in the side

EMPLOYMENT

Part Time-Physical Therapist needed immediately! Must be licensed in the CNMI up to $35/hr Call Pacific Home & Health Care, LLC at 234-2273 or email at jobs@pacific-nurse.com for more information Applications and inquires are kept strictly confidential.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Wanted: Avon Representative and earn 20% up to 50% commission. Please contact Jojo Faller at 323-4455 or 483-1971.

FOR SALE
CONSTRUCTION CO. & RESTAURANT
GOOD RECORD
Located in San Antonio
Please call 483-1123

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

CAREFREE LAWN CLEANING SERVICE 285-6640

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

CHANEL

We are now accepting applications for the position of

SALES ASSOCIATE

- 3 years experience in a retail environment
- Professional written and verbal communication skills
- Good computer skills required

We offer an attractive compensation package.

We invite you to submit your resume or apply in person at

CHANEL
DFS Galleria
Beach Road
Saipan, CNMI 96950
Email: chung.lee@chanelusa.com

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

Chanel, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: March 4, 2010 **CLOSE DATE: March 16, 2010**

POSITION: Lifeguards/Prims & Cooks **SALARY: $4.55 per hr.**

JOB QUALIFICATIONS:

- **Must be a high school graduate.**
- **2 years experience.**

For more information you may contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must include all the necessary requirements and submitted to the Security Office.

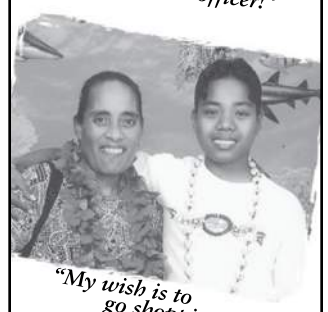
AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

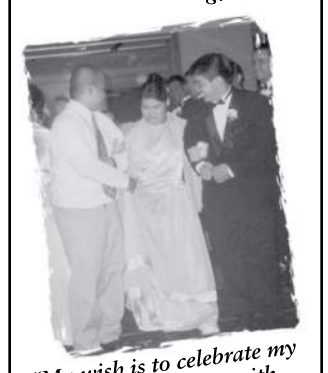
share the power of a wish℠

"I want to meet Winnie the Pooh!"

"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"

"When I grow up, I want to become a police officer!"


"My wish is to go shopping!"


"My wish is to celebrate my Sweet 16th birthday with my friends and family!"

22 years of making wishes come true!
For eligible children with life-threatening illnesses

MAKE-A-WISH®

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104
Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH
Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

THORN

© 2010 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Find today's solution in this section

Beasley, Wade lead Heat past Hawks

Miami Heat forward Michael Beasley (30) talks with guard Dwyane Wade, right, in the fourth quarter during an NBA basketball game in Miami, Saturday, March 6, 2010.

AP

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade scored 38 points, and Michael Beasley capped a big fourth quarter with seven consecutive points in the final two minutes, helping the shorthanded Miami Heat beat the Atlanta Hawks 100-94 Saturday night.

Beasley scored 14 of his 22 points in the final period, and his late spurt gave the Heat a six-point lead. Atlanta failed to score on five consecutive possessions in the last three minutes, committing three consecutive turnovers during the stretch.

Wade made four 3-pointers, hit 14 of 18 free throws and added 10 assists. Quentin Richardson sank five 3-pointers and scored 22 points for Miami.

By halftime, the Heat were down three players. Rafer Alston wasn't at the arena for personal reasons, Dorell Wright sat out with a swollen left knee, and Jermaine O'Neal tweaked his left knee in the second quarter and missed the rest of the game.

Their absences failed to foil the unpredictable Heat, coming off an overtime victory Thursday against the Lakers. The Heat won their third game in a row, snapped the Hawks' four-game winning streak and took the season series 3-1.

Jamal Crawford scored 24 points and Joe Johnson 20 for Atlanta.

The start of the fourth quarter was delayed eight minutes after the scoreboard showed Miami leading 176-77, and then it appeared the Hawks might pull away. Crawford converted a four-point play to put them up 84-80 with 8:42 left.

But when Atlanta went cold down the stretch, the Heat took advantage. Wade made a steal and fed Beasley for a dunk that put Miami ahead to stay, 93-92 with 1:51 left. The Hawks twice missed shots, and Beasley hit a follow. Josh Smith missed for the Hawks, and Beasley sank a 3-pointer for a 98-92 lead with 47 seconds to go.

Wade kept the Heat close much of the night. With him on the bench, Atlanta outscored Miami 10-3 early in the second quarter. Six points by Joe Smith during the stretch helped the Hawks build a 37-25 lead.

Wade came into the game shooting 29 percent from 3-point range, but he sank a pair of 3-pointers in the final minute of the first half, including a 38-footer at the buzzer, to cut the margin to 56-52.

With the Heat trailing 68-56, Wade again rallied the Heat. He hit 3-pointers on consecutive possessions to cut Atlanta's lead to 68-64. He hit a dunk, and then came his back-to-back breakaways to make it 70-all.

Suns 113, Pacers 105

At Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire scored 30 points for the third consecutive game as the Phoenix Suns beat the Indiana Pacers for the 1,900th victory in franchise history in a game marred by two fights and eight technical fouls.

Things got heated with 46.7 seconds remaining in the third period when the Pacers' Earl Watson appeared to push the Suns' Channing Frye. Indiana's Danny Granger then took a swipe at Frye, who swung back. The Pacers' Roy Hibbert and the Suns' Jason Richardson joined the altercation, and both were hit with technicals, along with Granger. Frye was assessed two technical fouls, an automatic ejection.

Indiana's Josh McRoberts and Phoenix's Louis Amundson scuffled midway through the second period. Both received technicals. Early in the fourth quarter, Indiana coach Jim O'Brien was hit with a technical for arguing with officials.

Grant Hill added 22 points for the Suns, and Richardson had 20 points and 10 rebounds. Granger led the Pacers with 24 points.

Mavericks 122, Bulls 116

At Chicago, Dirk Nowitzki scored 27 points, and Rodrigue Beaubois and Caron Butler added 24 each as Dallas beat Chicago to extend its season-high win streak to 11 games.

Nowitzki scored 13 in the fourth quarter and the Mavericks hung on after watching a 14-point lead shrink to four, sending Chicago to its fourth straight loss.

Derrick Rose scored 34 points, but the Bulls simply couldn't get the stops they needed. Dallas shot 56.3 percent and got 18 points from Shawn Marion to go with the big performances by Nowitzki, Butler and Beaubois.

Bucks 92, Cavaliers 85

At Milwaukee, rookie Brandon Jennings scored 25 points as Milwaukee beat Cleveland while LeBron James watched from the bench and limping noticeably off it.

Jennings, who said earlier this week maybe he'd stop shooting after several poor performances, hit five 3-pointers and went 6 of 14 from the field.

Antawn Jamison had 30 points and 11 rebounds, but the Cavs lost their 10th straight dating to 2007 without James in the lineup.

Coach Mike Brown insisted his decision to sit James was for rest and had nothing to do with the previous night when the star twisted his right ankle.

Nets 113, Knicks 93

At New York, Devin Harris scored 31 points as New Jersey erased an early 16-point deficit to beat New York, improving the NBA's worst record to 7-55.

Courtney Lee added 25 in his return to the starting lineup for the Nets, who are trying to avoid finishing with the worst record in NBA history. They beat the Knicks for the second straight time, but have no more games against their almost-as-hapless neighbors across the Hudson River.

David Lee scored 23 points and Wilson Chandler had 20 for the Knicks, who set an NBA record for 3-point futility by missing all 18 attempts while losing for the 12th time in 14 games.

Spurs 102, Grizzlies 92

At Memphis, Tennessee, Richard Jefferson scored 18 points, and Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili added 17 each as San Antonio defeated Memphis.

The victory was the Spurs' fourth straight and extended the Grizzlies' skid at home to eight losses in a row.

Six Spurs finished in double figures, including Matt Bonner who had 13 points, including shooting 4 of 7 from 3-point range. George Hill added 11 and DeJuan Blair 10.

O.J. Mayo led Memphis with 23 points, while Marc Gasol finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds.

Bobcats 101, Warriors 90

At Charlotte, North Carolina, D.J. Augustin scored 19 points off the bench and Gerald Wallace added 18 before getting ejected as Charlotte pulled away late to beat Golden State and spoil Stephen Curry's return home.

With much fanfare, the Charlotte native and former Davidson star played his first game as a pro here in front of sellout crowd that gave him a standing ovation and cheered most of his made baskets. Curry scored 25 points, but shot just 8 of 23 and the depleted Warriors faded in the fourth quarter in their fourth straight loss.

Rockets 112, Timberwolves 98

At Minneapolis, Luis Scola had 25 points and a career-high 21 rebounds as struggling Houston beat Minnesota.

Kevin Martin had 30 points and Aaron Brooks added 25 points and nine assists for the Rockets.

Kevin Love had 20 points and 11 rebounds and Ryan Gomes scored 17 for the Timberwolves, who have lost five in a row and 11 of their last 12.

Jazz 107, Clippers 85

At Salt Lake, City, Mehmet Okur scored 27 points and Carlos Boozer got his 40th double-double of the season with 17 points and 17 rebounds to lead Utah over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Deron Williams had 10 points and 10 assists for the Jazz, who atoned for getting upset by the Clippers less than a week before and won a vital home game.

The Clippers had lost at home the night before to Oklahoma City and fizzled in the second half, scoring just 13 in the fourth quarter.

Drew Gooden had 20 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Clippers.

NBA BRIEFS

Pistons: Stuckey out of hospital after collapse

DETROIT (AP)—Detroit Pistons guard Rodney Stuckey was "doing well" and was released from the hospital on Saturday following his collapse on the bench on Friday against the Cleveland Cavaliers. All tests at the Cleveland Clinic came back normal, the team said. He was returning to Detroit and will undergo further tests. "He's doing well," Pistons strength and conditioning coach Arnie Kander told The Associated Press. Stuckey spent the night at the hospital for observation while cardiologists checked him out. He was conscious and breathing on his own as he was taken to the hospital after collapsing into Kander's arms on the bench during the third quarter. Stuckey missed two games in 2008 after feeling dizzy and lightheaded during a game. In that game, Stuckey squatted with discomfort in the final seconds of the second quarter, stood up with his hands on his knees and later patted his chest rapidly while talking to Kander. "It was more dramatic this time because it was on TV," Kander said. "I think he's going to be OK. When we talked last night, he sounded normal."

Nets' Yi leaves game with sprained left ankle

NEW YORK (AP)—Chinese forward Yi Jianlian sprained his left ankle in the first quarter of the New Jersey Nets' NBA game against the New York Knicks on Saturday and will not return. Yi was hurt with 2:56 left when he appeared to step on a New York player's foot while running back into defensive rebounding position. A team spokesman said Yi was getting X-rays. Yi scored three points before he was hurt.

Heat suspend guard Alston indefinitely

MIAMI (AP)—Rafer Alston's second stint with the Miami Heat may be over, with the team saying they have suspended the point guard indefinitely. Alston was not at the arena for Miami's win over Atlanta on Saturday night. About two hours after the game, the team said its only communication with Alston has been by text message. Alston "has made himself otherwise unavailable to the team," the team said in its release. He has played in 25 games for the Heat since rejoining the club on Jan. 7, averaging 6.6 points and 2.9 assists.

Villegas still the leader after 3 rounds at Honda

The Honda Classic

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Ashes fell from the sky, smoke filled the air and a thick haze hovered over PGA National.

Some might have found breathing difficult at the Honda Classic.

Camilo Villegas wasn't among them.

Once threatening to run away after a sizzling start, Villegas came back to the pack on his back nine and wound up rallying to take a three-shot lead over Nathan Green and Vijay Singh after three rounds. Villegas is at 11-under 199, so even after making three bogeys in a five-hole stretch in what became a round of 67, he'll be the one to catch on Sunday.

"I'm sleeping in my own bed this week, which is always nice," said Villegas, one of many tour players who call South Florida home. "I've been nice and relaxed. So we'll show up tomorrow the same way and try to play some good golf."

Green (67) and Singh (69) are at 8 under, while George McNeill (66) and Matt Every (69) were tied for fourth at 6 under. Anthony Kim, who shared the 36-hole lead with Villegas, shot 73 and wound up six shots back entering the final round, tied with Michael Connell (69).

It's not over, Villegas quickly pointed out.

"Golf tournaments are four days," Villegas said. "So with that said, you've got to put four good rounds together and see what happens at the end."

All the talk before the tournament was about the difficulty of the course, before conversations on Thursday shifted to the gusting breezes and how they left players guessing.

AP

Camilo Villegas, of Colombia, acknowledges the gallery after putting at the 18th hole during the third round of the Honda Classic golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Saturday, March 6, 2010.

On Saturday, a controlled burn left its mark on the Honda.

Earth, wind and fire, indeed.

A planned fire in Jonathan Dickinson State Park, about 14 miles north of PGA National Resort and Spa, made an already tough course even tougher. The wind shifted a bit after the fire started, sending thick plumes of smoke, ash and haze down directly toward the course. Play wasn't halted, though the day was clearly affected.

"It's not great, but everyone's dealing with it," said Green, an asthmatic who once worked in a crematorium his parents manage. "It's strange when you're looking down, hitting your putt and you've got ashes sort of going past your ball. We had that a few holes in, I think on 13 and 14. It's different. I don't think guys are really worried about it. You can just sort of smell it and taste it."

Singh shot his third straight round in the 60s, a 69 to keep him in the mix for what would be his first win since capturing the FedExCup in 2008.

"It's not going to be easy for nobody tomorrow," Singh said. "I'm just going to go out and play solid, try not to make too many mistakes. If you can keep the mistakes to a minimum, I think you'll be OK."

Also with a third-straight sub-70 round was Sam Saunders, who shot his third straight 69 and is tied for 10th, eight shots behind Villegas. Saunders is Arnold Palmer's grandson, and "The King" is the kid's coach.

"Hopefully, someday, and I've said this many times before, that my game will become good enough and I'll become a good enough player that I'll be known as Sam Saunders and Arnold Palmer's grandson," Saunders said. "I think I'm getting there, but right now, it's fine. If I'm Arnold Palmer's grandson, that's kind of the deal. I understand that."

Saunders has drawn his share of attention before, first playing as a 14-year-old non-competing marker with Peter Jacobsen at Bay Hill—Arnie's tournament—and then caddying for his grandfather at Palmer's final Masters.

Now, he's just trying to play his way into some spotlight. He's in the Honda on a sponsor's exemption.

"I'm very confident in him," Palmer said.

Villegas has plenty of self-confidence right now.

He made four birdies on the front side—including the par-4 6th hole, the tournament's toughest this week, for the second straight day.

"When the ball went in, I looked at my caddie and said 'Nice eagle,'" Villegas said. "Kind of the way it was. It was tough."

And after a bogey at the 10th seemed to derail him a bit, Villegas rolled in a 20-footer for birdie on the next hole, punching the air as the putt dropped.

Villegas had only four top-10 finishes in 21 tour starts last season, after winning back-to-back starts in September 2008 and thinking he was ready for a big breakthrough.

Maybe this is the year. So far in 2010, he was third at Match Play and then tied for eighth last week at the Phoenix Open.

"We have our good years, average years and bad years," Villegas said. "I decided to look at the good side of it and work on those little things that I needed to get better, and show up this year a little more excited to be out here."

A win and a $1.008 million check Sunday would make him plenty excited.

Steelers QB Roethlisberger investigated for Georgia assault

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga. (AP)—For the second time in a year, Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger is being accused of sexual misconduct, with a police investigating him Saturday for an alleged assault at a nightclub in a Georgia college town.

Police in Milledgeville were examining the claim of a 20-year-old student, who told an officer that Roethlisberger sexually assaulted her early Friday. The police department had no plans to comment until at least Monday.

The case comes as Roethlisberger faces a lawsuit filed in July by a woman who says he raped her in 2008 at a Lake Tahoe hotel and casino, an allegation he strongly denies. Roethlisberger, who was not in custody, has not been criminally charged in either case and has claimed counter-damages in the lawsuit.

Still, to hear it on the airwaves in Pittsburgh, this latest situation seems to have shaken fans of the star quarterback, a man who has never hidden the fact he enjoys the nightlife. He has been spotted gambling in Las Vegas and is sometimes seen in public with small groups of friends and bodyguards.

The latest accusation came in downtown Milledgeville, about 85 miles southeast of Atlanta and about 30 miles south of the lake home the player owns. Roethlisberger, who turned 28 on Tuesday, and two or three friends went to Buffington's bar earlier Thursday night to watch the University of Pittsburgh men's college basketball game, said Paul Kurcikevicus, a 24-year-old college student.

He said the group was friendly, at first joking that Roethlisberger was not the NFL player. Kurcikevicus said Roethlisberger bought shots for him and some other people: "O-Bombs," a mixture of energy drink and flavored rum.

The group later went to The Brick restaurant nearby, owner Frank Pendergrast said.

"He was very polite with everybody," Pendergrast said. "He was down here from about 11:30 until about 1:30 having a good time, talking to a lot of people. Looked like he was signing autographs and letting people take pictures. Other than that, it was really uneventful."

Roethlisberger was later seen at Capital City, a popular nightclub for students at Georgia College & State University.

One bar patron, 21-year-old college student Brandon Harris, said he saw Roethlisberger come in with two or three big men who were keeping other club goers away. Harris said the group went into a curtained VIP area in the back of the club, and some women were let inside.

Amber Hanley, a 21-year-old college student, said she and a few friends were also in the VIP area with Roethlisberger. She said she asked the quarterback to take a photo with her friend, whose boyfriend was a fan, but he seemed disappointed that's all she wanted. Hanley said she rolled her eyes, and Roethlisberger called her an expletive and walked away. Later, Roethlisberger was aggressively hitting on another girl, Hanley said.

Deputy Police Chief Richard Malone said Roethlisberger had been with three other people who were mingling with another group that included the alleged victim. Malone said the woman and her party contacted a nearby police officer following the alleged assault.

The nature of the assault was not described, but Malone did say it was being termed a sexual assault.

Roethlisberger and the alleged victim were interviewed and the woman was taken to a hospital, where she was treated and released, Malone said. The woman was not identified by police and The Associated Press does not generally identify possible victims of sexual abuse.

Some fans said the latest allegation made them question Roethlisberger's character.

"At the same time, I can see how someone in his position could be a huge target for somebody looking to make a quick buck or get a settlement out of something," said Chris O'Neill, of Harrison City, Pa. "While I don't think he has the greatest character, I do want to believe in both of these instances that he was wrongfully accused and I hope that's what comes out when the truth is revealed."

Police said Roethlisberger and his attorney were cooperating with investigators.

The player's agent, Ryan Tollner, said in a statement he was skeptical of the motive of the alleged victim in Milledgeville because of the previous Lake Tahoe allegations. Steelers spokesman Dave Lockett said the team was gathering information and had no comment.

As Pittsburgh's first-round draft pick out of Miami of Ohio in 2004, Roethlisberger led the Steelers to Super Bowl victories in 2006 and 2009. He has frequently donated time and money to charities, and his charitable foundation awards a police dog to a department near every Steelers road opponent.

However, with his championships and $102 million contract have come several off-the-field problems. In 2006, he defied his coach's orders and rode his motorcycle without a helmet—and wound up with a concussion, broken jaw and other injuries after a wreck.

And while Roethlisberger has a reputation for patiently signing autographs and posing for pictures while out in public, he also is known for occasionally inelegant behavior in Pittsburgh. Early in his career, he was photographed—obviously after imbibing in alcohol—wearing a T-shirt reading "Drink Like a Champion." Restaurant owners in Pittsburgh have complained he has tried to skip out on bills, arguing he brought business to the establishment.

Fan Julie Muckle of Cranberry Township, Pa., said Roethlisberger was hanging out with the wrong people.

"I'm 24 and if I want to go out to a local bar, I know where I can find him. I feel like he needs to hide himself a little more and be with a better group," Muckle said.

The public largely supported him when he was accused of sexual assault in Nevada. But radio shows in Pittsburgh have been flooded with calls since Friday's allegation - few of them sympathetic, with many wondering if the new case indicates a troubling pattern of behavior.

"As a sports fan, sometimes we compartmentalize how we view players, and my view as Roethlisberger might decline as I learn more about the situation, but I will still respect him and like him as an athlete," said Matthew DiFiore, 20, of Moon Township, Pa. "Off the field, there may be questions coming into my mind about his character."

Chisato earns spot for St. Paddy's Day tourney

Ron Chisato outdueled Leonard Sablan to win Thursday's8-ball tournament at USS Pelilie Club and earn a spot in the St. Patrick's Day champions match March 17.

Chisato moved to the top of the winner's bracket by defeating Erina Olkeriil and Mary Roppul. Roppul had taken a close game from Edward Suzuki. Sablan got by "T" Minor and John Mongami before meeting Chisato. Mongami had beaten Annie Tesiro and Bernard Kileleman.

Sablan took the first game, sending Chisato to the loser's bracket. There he met Tesiro, who had marched through games against Olkeriil, Suzuki, Mongami and Kileleman, relying heavily on her bank shot. Her streak stopped with a close loss.

Chisato won the rematch with Sablan and also took the third game to grab his place in the St. Patrick's Day championship.

Eight winners of Thursday and Sunday preliminary matches will face off March 17 for a $100 cash prize and trophies from Pacific Amusement.

Chisato joins previous winners Larry Briones, Mei Rengiil, Taylor Watanabe, and Rick Rengiil and the next three contests will complete the field for the final.

All games are 8-ball, double elimination, and follow Billiard Congress of America rules. Sign up starts at 7:30pm. For more information, contact Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***

FIRST-TIMERS

From Page 28

fastest time in the marathon event that day, but was the first female finisher after clocking in at 3:10:03. Her victory in the women's division ended Mamiko Berger's bid for a three-peat.

Berger won the first two editions of the women's full marathon, but fell short this year, as she cramped on her way to the southern portion of the course. Berger crossed the finish line at the American Memorial Park grimacing in pain, a rare moment, as the Saipan-based runner completed the first two stagings of the Saipan Marathon with a big smile on her face.

Despite finishing second and cramping hard, Berger still had one reason to celebrate, as her second-fastest time (women's division), 3:16:14, is better than her 2009 winning time of 3:22:45.

"It was hard. At first I managed to keep pace with her (Mochizuki) when we were going up to Marianas Resort. However, when we made our turn at the fire station at AMP, I lost her because I began to cramp," Berger said.

"I was talking to her while we were running and asked her about her time. She said, she could finish the race in three hours. So, I was like, wow, I can't do that, but still I was challenged to keep pace with her and better my time last year," Berger added.

Mochizuki was 10 minutes short of her prediction, but still it was enough to give her victory in her first marathon event.

"I've been running in a lot of long distance races, but this was my first time to run in marathon and to run on Saipan. At first, it was difficult because when the race started it was so dark, but the good thing was, there were a lot of aid stations to help me out for direction," the 37-year-old runner said.

Like Mochizuki, Kijima is no stranger to long distance races, as he had been a member of a running team in junior high school and college. He had been to four half marathon events and this was his first time to join a full marathon.

"I had fun, especially when the sun went up and I was able to look at the beauty of the island," said Kijima, who came to Saipan not only to race, but also to have a honeymoon with his wife, Naoko.

Kijima and Mochizuki and other winners in the Winter Festival of Runs were feted in an awards banquet Saturday night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Joining Kijima in Top 6 were Masahiko Nagasaka (2:58:11), Seijiro Satake (3:02:37), Yohei Onodera (3:02:30), Jun Tashiro (3:07:15), and Takenobu Yamamoto (3:09:40).

In the women's division, rounding off the Top 6 were Saipan's Kimberly King-Hinds (3:34:53), Kimie Tamashita (3:45:58), Yu Sasaki (3:55:14), and Yumiko Inamura (4:07:26).

Age group winners were also cited at the banquet. They were men's division's Yuki Goto (20-29), Mamoru Jodoi (30-39), Yoshikazu Honda (40-49), Ippei Asai (50-59), and Masakhiko Iida (over 60); women's division's Moe Sakai (20-29), Sachiko Suzuki (30-39), Naoki Ishida 940-49), Chisako Inoue (50-59), and Toyoko Yabutani (over 60).

One hundred eighty-four participated in the full marathon, which started and ended at AMP and had runners heading first to the northern part of the island or as far as the Marianas Resort then to the southern portion past the Post Office in Chalan Kanoa and back via Beach Road.

Besides the marathon, there were also competitions in half marathon and 10K races. Kennichi Yamaguchi and Mari Ozaki won the men's and women's half marathon, while Takeshi Aoyama and Noriko Jim prevailed in the 10K race. Full results of both races will be featured on the *Saipan Tribune in* the following days.

FAIL

From Page 28

ing to return it.

Joining Frink on the runner-up team were Poland Masaharu, Jared Sablan, and Frankie Camacho.

Four other teams competed in the U14 division of the four-person beach volleyball tournament: Hot Spikers, 670 Blow Outs, Spankin' Swingerz, and Team Money.

The weekend tournament also had a separate competition in the U17 division with Sons of the Beaches besting nine other squads.

Sons of the Beaches, which had Dae Min Jeon, C.J. Libut, Angelo Salas, Minsung Kim, and A.J. Batallones as members, earned twice-to-beat advantage, too in the finals against All-Stars, but took only one set to win the U17 championship, 21-12.

The victory was sort of back-to-back for Sons of the Beaches, as the team also ruled the 2009 edition of the Kids Marianas Cup, which then had only one age group competition.

Sons of the Beaches swept Lamers in last year's best-of-three sets finals, winning Games 1, 15-13, and 2, 15-9.

Besides the Sons of the Beaches and All-Stars, the eight other teams that joined the U17 division competition of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association-organized Kids Marianas Cup were Eat Some Sand, Jammers, Yeah Buddy, Same Same But Different, Girl Power, Pink Strikers, and Dalena's Team.

NETTERS

From Page 28

macho and Kimberly Borders in three sets, 5-7, 6-3, 7-10.

Christian Miller was the second tennis player to gain the February citation, as he grabbed the NMASA Male Student Athlete of the Month plum.

The 14-year-old Whispering Palms student earned NMASA' nods after climbing up to the 18-and-under division of the Coconut Classic and winning the championship against seven other netters.

Completing the list of February awardees was Tsunami Saipan's Angel Marie Tan, who had record-breaking swims in last month's 2010 Saipan Swim Club- Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan dual meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Tan clocked in at 41.86 seconds in the 50m breaststroke in the girls' 9 to 10 age group to shatter the 42.52 seconds Myana Welch set on March 30, 2000. In the 100m breaststroke, Tan submitted 1:31.27, breaking anew a Welch's previous mark (1:35.37) recorded on Jan. 22, 2000. The 10-year-old Tan's third record was still in the breaststroke event (200m) when she posted 3:16.71.

MBI

From Page 28

MBI began working its way back into the game in the third period, but each time the defending champions inched closer, Aguon was there to make crucial baskets for McGraw-Hill. Aguon drilled two triples in the third period, as McGraw-Hill hung on to driver's seat at the end of that canto, 58-57.

MBI refused to respect Aguon's shooting in the early goings of the fourth canto, as the CNMI Men's Nationals coach continued making his outside shots, canning two more triples and keeping McGraw-Hill in the lead.

Finally, in the last six minutes of the game, Pando Muleta shadowed Aguon, limiting the latter's touches on the ball. Muleta was also busy on offense, as his five straight points put MBI in the lead for the first time, 70-68, with 5:15 left on the clock.

Aguon then drilled his fifth triple of the night, quickly bringing favor back to McGraw-Hill, 71-70. However, that was the last time Aguon's team had the upper hand, as Muleta and company got the momentum they needed to thwart their hard-fighting foes.

MBI led by nine, 72-63, going into the last three minutes of the match before McGraw-Hill made one final attempt to steal the win. A triple from Aguon and a layup from Buniag cut MBI's lead to two, 81-83, with 1:03 left in the match.

McGraw-Hill played pressure defense in the backcourt, leaving George Barbo open for a jumper and giving MBI more space, 85-81. McGraw-Hill made two attempts from the three-point area, but missed as wrong hands, not Aguon's, pulled up for the shots. A split from Muleta and Marvin Achas then secured the win for MBI, its sixth in as many games.

In the first match, AON came back from an 11-point deficit in the third period to beat Mobil.

Leo Factor made all his 12 points in the fourth quarter, while Jorge De Guzman added 10 to lift AON to its third straight victory in the 15-team caging, which was missing in action for two playing days due to rain.

Free throw shooting in the fourth canto was the deciding factor in the AON/Mobil game. AON trooped to the foul line 18 times and got 13 points from the stripe. Mobil was only 2-for-7.

First Game

AON/ NJ Plus 101 – De Guzman 30, Tamano 20, Factor 12, De Dios 11, Catalla 8, Abuan 7, Capuyon 6, Pantola 6, Manangan 2.

Mobil 98 – Ajoste 29. Ruluked 21, Estolas 20, Manalo 17, Jose 10, Galzote 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-16, 48-42, 63-74, 101-98.

Second Game

MBI 87 – Muleta 22, Barbo 22, David 19, Nonato 15, Achas 7, Trajano 4.

McGraw-Hill 83 – Aguon 24, Mendiola 20, Buniag 14, Cabrera 9, Diaz 8, Villagomez 6, Merar 4.

Scoring by quarters: 25-13, 42-30, 58-57, 87-83.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	39	21	.650	—
Toronto	32	28	.533	7
Philadelphia	22	39	.361	17 1/2
New York	21	41	.339	19
New Jersey	7	55	.113	33

Southeast Division

Orlando	43	20	.683	—
Atlanta	40	22	.645	2 1/2
Miami	32	31	.508	11
Charlotte	30	31	.492	12
Washington	21	38	.356	20

Central Division

Cleveland	49	15	.766	—
Milwaukee	33	29	.532	15
Chicago	31	31	.500	17
Detroit	21	41	.339	27
Indiana	20	43	.317	28 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	43	21	.672	—
San Antonio	36	24	.600	5
Houston	31	30	.508	10 1/2
Memphis	32	31	.508	10 1/2
New Orleans	31	32	.492	11 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	41	21	.661	—
Utah	40	22	.645	1
Oklahoma City	37	24	.607	3 1/2
Portland	37	27	.578	5
Minnesota	14	49	.222	27 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	46	17	.730	—
Phoenix	40	25	.615	7
L.A. Clippers	25	38	.397	21
Sacramento	21	41	.339	24 1/2
Golden State	17	45	.274	28 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Charlotte 101, Golden State 90
Miami 100, Atlanta 94
New Jersey 113, New York 93
Dallas 122, Chicago 116
San Antonio 102, Memphis 92
Houston 112, Minnesota 98
Milwaukee 92, Cleveland 85
Utah 107, L.A. Clippers 85
Phoenix 113, Indiana 105

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	63	641	494	1890	30.0
Durant, OKC	61	592	536	1811	29.7
Anthony, DEN	49	482	398	1407	28.7
Bryant, LAL	58	588	349	1600	27.6
Wade, MIA	58	538	387	1519	26.2
Ellis, GOL	52	520	244	1335	25.7
Nowitzki, DAL	62	561	413	1567	25.3
Bosh, TOR	53	463	368	1300	24.5
Stoudemire, PHX	64	532	343	1408	22.0
Johnson, ATL	61	514	180	1310	21.5
Randolph, MEM	62	514	257	1294	20.9
Jackson, CHA	60	451	254	1249	20.8
Rose, CHI	61	522	191	1241	20.3
Evans, SAC	57	424	281	1156	20.3
Lee, NYK	61	521	193	1235	20.2
Gay, MEM	60	462	227	1200	20.0
Billups, DEN	53	294	347	1058	20.0
Brooks, HOU	60	423	188	1185	19.8
Kaman, LAC	56	453	190	1096	19.6
Boozer, UTA	58	455	224	1134	19.6

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	252	410	.615
Howard, ORL	387	643	.602
Hilario, DEN	327	552	.592
Gasol, MEM	345	596	.579
Millsap, UTA	287	506	.567
Bynum, LAL	356	628	.567
O'Neal, CLE	262	463	.566
Lee, NYK	521	939	.555
Boozer, UTA	455	822	.554
Horford, ATL	349	633	.551

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	63	219	612	831	13.2
Randolph, MEM	62	265	474	739	11.9
Lee, NYK	61	161	553	714	11.7
Camby, POR	58	188	483	671	11.6
Bosh, TOR	53	159	446	605	11.4
Boozer, UTA	58	128	518	646	11.1
Duncan, SAN	56	181	428	609	10.9
Wallace, CHA	58	121	489	610	10.5
Bogut, MIL	55	170	396	566	10.3
Haywood, DAL	60	237	367	604	10.1

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	63	711	11.3
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Williams, UTA	55	557	10.1
Rondo, BOS	59	586	9.9
Kidd, DAL	61	567	9.3
James, CLE	63	537	8.5
Westbrook, OKC	61	484	7.9
Davis, LAC	60	476	7.9
Harris, NJN	45	304	6.8
Wade, MIA	58	383	6.6

THE HONDA CLASSIC SCORES

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida

(AP) — Scores Saturday from the Honda Classic, a $5.2 million event at the 7,158-yard, par-70 PGA National Champion Course:

THIRD ROUND

Camilo Villegas	66-66-67—199
Nathan Green	65-70-67—202
Vijay Singh	67-66-69—202
George McNeill	68-70-66—204
Matt Every	69-66-69—204
Michael Connell	65-71-69—205
Anthony Kim	68-64-73—205
J.B. Holmes	71-69-66—206
Graeme McDowell	68-67-71—206
Chris Tidland	73-67-67—207
Charlie Wi	72-67-68—207
Sam Saunders	69-69-69—207
Fredrik Jacobson	69-69-69—207
Paul Casey	73-64-70—207
Chad Collins	72-70-66—208
Justin Leonard	72-70-66—208
Ted Purdy	68-70-70—208
Tom Gillis	68-70-70—208
Henrik Bjornstad	68-70-70—208
Stephen Ames	73-64-71—208
Mike Weir	71-64-73—208
Jerry Kelly	69-65-74—208
Justin Rose	70-72-67—209
D.J. Trahan	67-73-69—209
Steve Wheatcroft	71-68-70—209
Oliver Wilson	66-73-70—209
Brett Quigley	70-68-71—209
Chez Reavie	70-65-74—209
Brendon de Jonge	70-73-67—210
Alex Prugh	68-73-69—210
Will MacKenzie	69-72-69—210
Richard S. Johnson	69-72-69—210
Lee Westwood	69-71-70—210
Michael Bradley	69-70-71—210
Charles Howell III	69-70-71—210
Rich Barcelo	73-70-68—211
Angel Cabrera	69-74-68—211
Brandt Snedeker	70-73-68—211
Johnson Wagner	73-69-69—211
Marc Leishman	74-66-71—211
Joe Ogilvie	72-68-71—211
Jeev Milkha Singh	71-69-71—211
Alex Cejka	68-68-75—211
Jason Dufner	72-71-69—212
Josh Teater	75-68-69—212
Sergio Garcia	74-69-69—212
Scott Piercy	68-75-69—212
Briny Baird	72-70-70—212
Bo Van Pelt	71-69-72—212
Rocco Mediate	73-65-74—212
Jason Bohn	71-67-74—212
Ernie Els	73-70-70—213
Alexandre Rocha	66-76-71—213
David Lutterus	73-69-71—213
Jimmy Walker	75-66-72—213
Bubba Watson	67-73-73—213
Blake Adams	75-68-71—214
Stuart Appleby	74-69-71—214
Craig Bowden	73-69-72—214
Padraig Harrington	71-71-72—214
Matt Jones	69-73-72—214
Mark Calcavecchia	73-69-72—214
Steve Lowery	69-73-72—214
Trevor Immelman	73-68-73—214
Jerod Turner	74-69-72—215
John Senden	74-68-73—215
Rory McIlroy	71-69-75—215
Chris Stroud	71-68-76—215
Chris Riley	71-71-75—217
Jeff Quinney	73-69-76—218
Vaughn Taylor	69-73-76—218
Mark Wilson	73-69-77—219
Derek Lamely	71-72-78—221
Garrett Willis	70-73-80—223

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

MBI	6	0
World Resort	4	0
Aqua Resort	4	1
Fiesta Resort	4	1
Pacific Islands Club	2	1
Mobil	2	2
TBK	2	2
AON/NJ Plus	3	2
Shirley's	2	3
Pepsi	1	2
McGraw-Hill	1	3
Docomo/SGH	0	3
Bank of Guam	0	3
Hard Rock	0	4
Cell Pro	0	4

The Week in Sports

Pro spikers spark week

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. and Japanese professional volleyball players provided CNMI sports enthusiasts a show, showing class acts on the sand court of the Pacific Islands Club for three days during the 18th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival.

AVP pros Jenn Synder, Clair D'Amore, Andrew Fuller, and Paul Baxter played two exhibition games to start up the weekend festivities. They then teamed up with local bets and competed in the men's and doubles divisions.

The U.S. pros failed to advance to the finals with their respective local teammates, leaving the Japanese pros the chance to win the championship.

In the all-Japanese women's finals, the pair of Megumi Murakami and Remi Sudoh prevailed over compatriots Mitzumi Ozaki and Hiroyo Kaneda, 21-18. In the men's division, Daisuke Matsumoto and Junki Hatabe topped Josh Cruz and Hiro Ozaki, 21-19.

A day following the finals of the Marianas Cup, Baxter and Fuller went to the Marianas High School Gymnasium to play Rocball, a sport indigenous on Saipan.

From the hard court, action switched in the waters off PIC with Saipan Swim Club holding the 5th Annual Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim.

The annual swim had competitions in three divisions, 1-kilometer (meek), 3-km (tweener) and 5-km (mighty). Winners were Lennosuke Suzuki, Kieran Daly, and Andres Buitrago.

Also making it to the week's winner circle were Kagman High School's varsity and junior varsity basketball teams.

The Ayuyus ended Southern High School's two-year reign in the junior varsity division of the MISO caging after a 48-41 victory in the finals.

Kagman made it a double celebration when its varsity team won its first championship since 2003, following a 66-56 overtime triumph over Southern.

Still in basketball, the Shirley's caging managed to play only three games last week due to rain. Defending champion Micronesian Brokers, Inc., Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and McGraw-Hill won their separate matches.

Softball games in the Chamolinian league at the Capital Hill Ballfield were also affected by Mother Nature, as after three matches were played on Monday, only one finished on Wednesday and none on Friday.

Rain was no problem for bowlers, as they went on to compete in Saipan Bowling Association's monthly roll-offs. Winning their respective divisions were Zack Cruz (youth roll-off), Tess Sablan (women's) and Jared Gutierrez (men's).

In tennis, Lydia Tan and Vivian Lee went to Guam and brought home the women's open doubles championship after beating Sally Lee and Alea Marie Dugan in the finals, 5-7, 7-6, 10-8.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of Kagman High School's varsity team pose with their supporters after beating Saipan Southern High School in the MISO caging finals last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kagman's Josh Jones, left, battles Southern's Nevin Salem for the loose ball during their title game in the junior varsity division of the MISO caging last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
McGraw-Hill's Melody Matson pulls up for a jumper during their game against Saipan Grand Hotel/Docomo in the Shirley's caging at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jenn Snyder hits one near the net while teammate Nicole LeBlanc looks on during one of their preliminary games in the Marianas Cup on the PIC sand court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Junki Hatabe bends for a return during his and Daisuke Matsumoto's title game against Josh Cruz and Hiro Ozaki in the Marianas Cup on the PIC sand court.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
U.S. pros Paul Baxter and Andrew Fuller pose with rocball players and the sport's creator, James Feger (in yellow shirt).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants in the 5th Annual Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim pose for a group photo before plunging into the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

Pro spikers spark week
PAGE 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Beasley, Wade lead Heat past Hawks
PAGE 24

First-timers win Saipan Marathon

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Masaharu Kijima, left, and Mayu Mochizuki raise their arms in triumph after ruling the men's and women's full marathon on Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two Japanese runners had winning debuts in the 2010 Winter Festival of Runs after ruling Saturday's full marathon event.

Masaharu Kijima of Nigita, Japan was the first runner to finish the 42-kilometer race, timing in at two hours, 53 minutes, and 15 seconds to claim the men's division title.

Kijima's time was faster that last year's winning time of 3:04:44 posted by his compatriot Izuru Nakashima.

Mayu Mochizuki, also of Japan, recorded the eighth

See FIRST-TIMERS on Page 26

Netters lead NMASA awardees for February

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two tennis players and one swimmer were voted top performers for February during Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association's monthly meeting on Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Named Male Athlete of the Month was Peter Loyola, who was cited for his efforts in on- and off-island tennis tournaments.

Early last month, Loyola competed in the 2010 Wise Woman Village Coconut Classic and advanced to the finals of two divisions. The Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis instructor teamed up with Amami Sakano in the mixed-up doubles and won over the tandem of Colin Ramsey and Todd Montgomery in the finals, 6-4, 5-7, 10-8.

Loyola also made it to the finals of the men's open, but lost to CNMI coach Jeff Race, 8-9.

Several weeks after the Coconut Classic, Loyola joined a small Saipan team to Guam and participated in the 2010 Quality Cup tennis tournament. He won the men's 35 singles, beating Guam's Khay Sung and Joseph Cruz in a round-robin tournament.

In the same Guam tournament, Loyola paired with Lydia Tan and the Saipan bets advanced to the Final Four before losing to second seeds Bill Ca-

See NETTERS on Page 26

Miller

Tan

Loyola

Fail succeeds in Kids Marianas Cup

Fail's Christian Miller returns the ball, while teammate Jake Lee looks during their finals match against Team Prodigy in the U14 division of the 2010 Kids Marianas Cup on the sand court of the Pacific Islands Club on Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Contrary to the literal meaning of its team name, Fail found success in the 2010 Kids Marianas Cup played on Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

Fail, composed of Clay McCullough-Stearns, Jake Lee, Christian Miller, Ilia Corella, and Minori Yoshida, went undefeated in the double-elimination tournament and clinched the U14 division title after beating Team Prodigy in the finals, 21-17.

In the championship match where Fail had a twice-to-beat advantage, Team Prodigy looked strong and boosted its chances to force a Game 2 when it threatened the eventual champion, 16-17.

However, good ball placement from Miller and McCullough-Stearns' intimidating presence at the net saved the day for Fail. Corella served for match point and Fail wrapped up the finals, as the ball headed to the right backline with Team Prodigy's Phalai Frink fail-

See FAIL on Page 26

MBI, AON extend winning streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Action in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League resumed Saturday night with Micronesian Brokers, Inc./Dial Full Force and AON/NJ Plus posting hard-earned wins at the JP Center Basketball Court.

MBI almost had its winning streak snapped when it fell behind by as much as 14 points before eking out an 87-83 victory against McGraw-Hill. AON/NJ Plus had a similar come-from-behind win over Mobil, 101-98.

McGraw-Hill, which came from a morale-boosting first win over Saipan GrandHotel/Docomo, 81-79, stunned the overconfident MBI in the first half. Lawrence Buniag and Peter Mendiola combined for 17 first-quarter points to give McGraw-Hill a 25-13 lead. In the second quarter, the lead ballooned to 14, 31-17, with Rufino Aguon coming off the bench and hitting seven points.

See MBI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MBI's R.J. Nonato, center, goes for a layup against McGraw-Hill's Lawrence Buniag, left, and Marlon Cabrera during their game in the Shirley's caging on Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court.